**ISSUE32 MAY1991** 

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GAMES

Psygnosis Goes Over The Top

With LEMMINGS!

## Suicidal and Small LEMMINGS

from Psygnosis and

Fully Playable Demos!

Shwashbuckling and Stoneage SKULL AND CROSSBONES

from Domark and

**CHUCK ROCK** 

from Core

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If Either of Your Disks is Missing -Consult Your Newsagent



The Bitmaps Breathe Life Into Cadaver



### TWO FULL DISKS!

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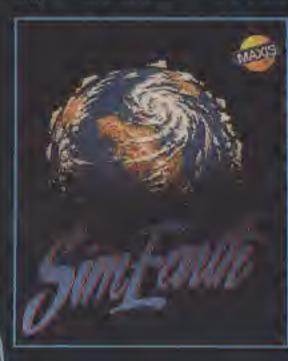


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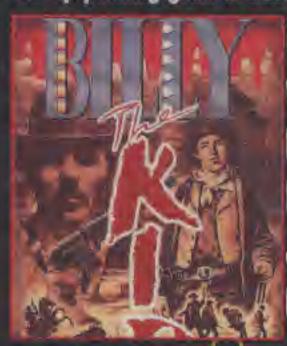


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character can
walk away from
this showdown
BUT THAT'S
JUST THE WAY
OF THE WEST







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fielly Playable Demost

**MAY 1991** 

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DOUBLE DISKS

FRIEDAL AL

Fully playable demos of Lemmings from Psygnosis, Ocean's Ett. Domark's Skull and Crossbones and Core Design's Chuck Rock. Here's all you need to know to extract hours of fun from the two value-packed ST disks that grace this month's front cover.

LETTERS

Thanks, complaints, suggestions, queries, tirades, pleas... The One readers have always been a vociferous bunch, and this month is no exception.

NEWS

Golden Joysticks Winners, a new hand-held console from Sega, and the hottest games news.

CYBERZONE

Kati Hamza gets excited at the prospect of the first Virtual Reality television game show. Come on down and read all about it.

FUTURE FLIGHTS

28

The Electronic Battlefield System promises to revolutionise flight simulators. Rik Haynes flies over to the US to find out why.

DEVELOPMENT

Top Industry Talent got together Stateside recently for an International software developers conference. Steve Cooke, the man in the know, got invited along and tells us all about it.

> THE ONE ON ONE

Rik Haynes interrupts the busy schedule of Builfrog Boss Peter Molyneux to get the low down on one of the most successful development teams in the business.

CDTV

Is Commodore's new CD-based machine the ultimate in computer entertainment? Laurence Scotford finds out.



Virtual gameshow: page 28.



Lemmings leads the reviews, from page 67,



CDTV - the shape of things to come?

**VEKTOR GRAFIX** 

The road to fame has been a hard one for top 3D development team Vektor Grafix, Alastair Swinnerton talks us through the ups and downs.

COMPETITION

Win yourself a speedboat, courtesy of Domark!

WIP

Glynn William's Fokker reappears as Air Duel and we've an Eldritch The Cat double bill featuring Tentacle and Rybok.

COMPETITION

Look good in leather! Win a genuine flying jacket courtesy of MicroProse.

REVIEW

Watch out, watch out, theres a Lemming about. Lemmings heads the first ST-only review section. and is followed by the likes of The Killing Game Show, Chuck Rock, and the first Cadaver levels disk.

STRATEGY

Our third feature from strategy maestro Matthew Stibbe. He takes a trip back in time to 1939. and the outbreak of World War II

DEMOS

We've had fun with a superlative Boulderdash clone, and dug out some Megadeath pics and music to accompany the dull thud of the editor banging his head against a brick wall.

ARCADES

John Cook takes a stomach-churning ride in the first 360° hydraulic cabinet and poses for a snapshot with the PM.

BUDGET

More Golden Oldies get The One treatment. This months line-up includes the classics IK+, Kult, and Carrier Command.

TIPS

Brian Nesbitt once again comes to the rescue with the final parts of Cadaver and Loom, and much more besides.



Ferry House, 81-57 Lacy Rava, London SW15 1PR. Tel. (881) 788 2224

DISK

Two disks, four games, surely the giveaway of a lifetime. What? You want quality as well as quantity? Look no further. First we have none other than the thrilling adventures of Ocean's person-of-

diminutive-

stature.

# THE DISK





T'S THE AGE OLD
STORY. Boy Elf meets
Girl Elf. Boy Elf falls in
love with Girl Elf. Girl Elf is
kidnapped by an evil gang so Boy
Elf sets out on a mission of
vengeance to rescue his beloved.
A sort of Double Dragon meets
the Diddy Men.

So what do you have to do to get her back? For the purposes of this disk, you have to battle through a selection of rooms from level 1 (the final game will feature six levels with an average of 100 rooms in each!), pitting your wits against all manner of enemies from goblins to ladybirds (hey, these are some bad little bugs you know).

### INSTRUCTIONS

Throughout your journey you get to pick up all manner of objects and use them in all manner of places with all manner of people. Buildings (in the loosest sense of the word) include Indian wigwams, WCs and campsites, while the characters include senile old wizards and hungry birds.

To interact with people and places just push up on the joystick to enter the 'interaction menu'. Cycle through the various options (talk, use, bribe etc.) until you get what you want. Logical use of the objects will reveal clues for later in the game, for example, the seed might best be used with the hungry bird.

The rest of the controls are simplicity itself:

Joystick left - Move left Joystick right - Move right Joystick up - Jump, climb up ladder or enter shop/talk with character Joystick down - Duck, climb down ladder Space bar - Enter interaction panel

### LOADING

Simply put the disk in the drive, turn on the computer and select Elf from the menu. The program will now load automatically.

### LOADING PROBLEMS AND FAULTY DISKS

If you should experience any loading problems with your disk simply pop it into a jiffy bag or padded envelope and send it to: The One Lemmings and Elf Replacements, T.I.B. plc, T.I.B. House, 11 Edward Street, Bradford, Yorkshire BD4 7BH. Please allow approximately 28 days for your replacement to arrive.

## VOLUME ONE I FAMALIA

Remember all of the hype about the other versions of Lemmings? Well, how would you like to play a few levels before anyone else?

HAT'S SMALL, GREEN
AND LIKELY to throw
itself off the nearest cliff?
The cutest characters to appear
on a computer screen since The
New Zealand Story, that's what.

Lemmings are the kind of creatures that fill your heart with affection and your mind with pictures of bunny rabbits prancing around a field of daisies. Then they throw themselves from a great height and fill your stomach with something less pleasant.

The trouble is you've been given the task of preventing the little rascals from popping their collective clogs by directly controlling their actions. Can you help them through five tortuously hard levels, avoiding falling weights, ground clamps and bottomless pits? Or will you just press the nuke button and watch them all explode? The choice is yours...

Along the bottom of your screen is the control panel. Each icon represents a different type of Lemming and it's here that you direct the actions of the on-screen genocide club. Simply select an icon then click on the Lemming that you want to perform the action. From left to right they are:

Decrease Production Rate - decreases the flow of Lemmings onto the level

Increase Production Rate increases the flow of Lemmings onto the level

Climber - causes the Lemming to climbs vertical surfaces

Floater - enables the Lemming to fall from a great height safely Bomb - destroys a Lemming



Blocker - stops the Lemming in his path blocking the passage of other Lemmings

Builder - starts the Lemming building a bridge (to cross gaps etc.). Each bridge is only twelve tiles long

Basher - causes the Lemming to dig horizontally through the first appropriate surface

Miner - causes the Lemming to

dig diagonally down through the

Digger - causes the Lemming to burrow vertically

Pause - pauses the game Nuke 'Em - destroys all the Lemmings (either for fun or if you're in a no-win situation)

The number above each icon shows the number of times each can be used.

### LOADING

Couldn't be easier. Just pop the disk in the drive, turn on the machine and choose Lemmings from the menu.

Saved the Lemmings? Conquered Elf? Wondering what to do next? Never fear, The One's disk two is here! The second of the square bits of plastic contains a fullyplayable section of Core Design's Chuck Rock. Will wonders ever cease?

### THE

ACK IN THE AGE of the dinosaurs, when every day was a struggle to survive, a caveman's greatest weapon was... his stomach? According to Core Design, there's nothing more deadly than a belly-butt, especially when the butting is done by Chuck Rock.

Chuck is facing a dilemma.

Ophelia, his curvacious wife, has been kidnapped by the dastardly Gary Gritter so Chuck has set off on the rescue, battling through five levels of prehistoric mayhem.

For the purposes of The One's

## DISK CHUCK ROCK



demo disk you have the chance to sample the dangers and delights of level one, complete with rock monsters, brontosauril, crocodiles et al.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Joystick Left - Move Left Joystick Right - Move Right Joystick Up - Jump Joystick Down - Duck

To help you battle through the monstrous menagerie, you have a choice of three weapons; the

belly-butt, the flying kick and the boulder.

To belly-butt simply push the fire button.

To perform a flying kick jump into the air, then push the fire button.

To pick up a boulder stand in front of it, pull down on the stick and push the button. Then point Chuck in the direction of your enemy and push the button again.

Boulders can be more than just projectyle weapons though. Keeping them above your head will shield you from air attacks, jumping on them allows you to reach high places, throwing them on a crocodile's nose throws you high into the air, the boulder is an all-round multi-purpose tool. The latest in stone age high-tech.

### LOADING

Simply put the disk in the drive, turn on your machine and select Chuck Rock from the menu. The game will now load automatically.

## VOLUME TWO

## SKULL

Last, but certainly not least, this month are the adventures of the two terrors of the high seas, One Eye and Red Dog, stars of Domark's Skull And Crossbones.

## CROSSBONES

IRATES BY NAME and pirates by nature, One Eye and Red Dog fulfill all the requirements needed to swash their buckles. Eye patches, earrings, pony tails, spanish galleons, gold dubloons and, of course, sword fighting.

Try to imagine Sinbad on heat. That's these two, as they battle through wave after wave of skeletons, pirates, ninjas (in a pirate game? Sneaky little devils get everywhere), and giant birds. With every bad guy killed, comes pieces of eight.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Each pirate has four combat moves available to him:

(with the fire button depressed, and facing right)

Joystick Right - Forward Thrust

Joystick Left - Reverse Thrust Joystick Diagonal Up and Right - High Thrust

Joystick Diagonal Down and Right - Low Thrust

To climb stairs first make sure all the bad guys are dead then push the fire button to get on the ladder and push up or down.

Coins are picked up by walking over them.

### LOADING

Just put the disk in the machine, turn it on and select Skull And Crossbones from the menu.

### LOADING PROBLEMS AND FAULTY DISKS

If you should experience any loading problems with your disk simply pop it into a jiffy bag or padded envelope and send it to: The One Chuck Rock and Skull And Crossbones Replacements, T.I.B. plc, T.I.B. House, 11 Edward Street, Bradford, Yorkshire BD4 7BH. Please allow approximately 28 days for your replacement to arrive.





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**ENOUGH?** 

@ The Wall Disney Company

### MONI VENTURES OF THORAG STERNHAMMER

Thorag Sternhammer looked at the bridge L before him. It was in rotten shape, bits of wood falling away every time someone merely breathed in it's direction. He had to cross it, his destination lay on the other side. Thorag dismounted from his horse and sat down beneath a large oak tree. What was he afraid of? He'd stood his ground against hordes of barbarians before, braved the fiery pits of the underground lairs, he'd even risked his life with the Undead Zombies of Ulm, no one had ever done that before. So what was his problem?

Te was afraid of heights. ■ Silly, but true. The world's most ferocious warrior was afraid of heights. It was at least three thousand feet to the bottom of chasm and the fact that the bridge kept falling apart every time he looked at it didn't help. Yet the prize that lay

beyond...

e was being childish. Standing up quickly he tied his horse to the tree, checked the contents of his pouch and put a foot on the first wooden plank. The bridge creaked its annoyance, causing the sweat on Thorag's brow to double. He put his other foot on the next plank. The bridge wobbled slightly but soon steadied itself. Thorag let out a sigh of relief.

Derhaps this wouldn't be so bad, he thought, as I he clung to the ropes on either side. He continued to walk and with every step the bridge became more fragile. He looked down, his first mistake. The bottom of the chasm seemed to zoom up to him screaming "Come and join me".

His grip tightened around the ropes as he forced his gaze away from the drop below and onto his destination.

**X** 7 ithout warning a bolt of blue light shot out of nowhere, filling his mind with strange thoughts. Flying boxes of metal exploding in the sky, weird alien creatures, futuristic technology, two square pieces of plastic. He shook his head and quickly carried on.

> snap from behind caused him to Aturn his head. The ropes had snapped! Any second now the rest of the bridge would go with it.

> > Thorag hurled himself at the far end of the bridge as the bridge swung away beneath him. His hand grasped a stray piece of rope and he held on for his life as it swung him into the cliff face. The wind rushed out of him as he collided with it but somehow he hung on.

Te started to haul himself up ■ Ithe rope and clambered onto the grass at the top. He rolled onto his back, let out another breath of relief and sat there looking at the sky. A shadow passed over him, growing larger and more menacing. Thorag tensed and looked at the large, dark figure striding towards him. His hand reached for his sword, only to find it gone. It must have slipped out of its sheath on the bridge. Damn. The figure loomed closer and opened it's mouth.

II Corry, we're sold out," it boomed, "Why Idon't you try subscribing to The One, it would make life a lot easier." The shopkeeper turned back leaving Thorag to his rage.

THE ONE MAGAZINE - FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS ON THE LATEST GAMES - ON SALE MAY 26TH

MONTH

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### **GAMES FOR HIRE?**

Dear The One.

When buying computer games I look through the reviews etc. and then go and take a look at the one that I want at my local retailer, but sometimes this is not enough.

Most games have an instant appeal factor which may look good for the few minutes of playing in the shop, but after a few hours at home disappears leaving you feeling a bit cheated.

Would it be feasible to have a computer hire shop which operates like a video hire shop, hiring out games for the night? That way you could really see the depth of the game and whether you will be getting your £25 worth.

I'm sure some of the other readers have had the same problem as I have when buying computer games. Can they suggest any other ways of seeing games to their full capabilities, as many shops disapprove of buyers spending hours on a game before buying or not buying it.

Simon Romans, High Wycombe, Bucks.

There are a number of problems connected with the hiring and lending of computer games, but by far the biggest is the question of royalty payments to software authors. Book lending libraries are able to operate because of something called the 'Public Lending Agreement' - a Government-administered fund which pays royalties to authors depending on the amount of times their books are borrowed. In order for software libraries to become viable, a similar system would have to be introduced to compensate programmers.

### VIRTUALLY HERE

Dear The One,
At last! In the past two
months I have noticed an
increase in the coverage of
computer-related
entertainment on TV. There
was an item on News At Ten
about the new Virtual Reality
(VR) arcade machines and
O.E.D.'s excellent Granny's
Greatest Thrill, featuring VR
and military simulators (redressing the balance after
their last 'shock' report into
computer game addiction).

Other readers may also have noticed reports on Tomorrow's World about a keyboard and music package running on the NES and a demonstration of Roland's new 3D Sound including Xenon 2 on CDTV.

Perhaps the best news of all though is a new VR game show hosted by Red Dwarf's Craig Charles, due to begin soon on ITV. I believe the show will feature players

kitted out in full VR suits and the viewer will see the computer-generated action rather than the human contestants.

Such coverage can only help to lift computer entertainment out of its unfortunate and undeserved 'cult' classification and encourage people to invest in VR when it becomes available for the home. This can only be good news for long-suffering games players like myself, as generally an increased user base means lower prices.

A vote of thanks must go to your magazine for your coverage of topics like VR and CD which the TV companies seem to be catching up with. It would seem that the critics who complain about coverage of unaffordable and/or unavailable hardware are about to be silenced. CD and VR are on the way to

the home sooner than they think and I for one can't wait.

Stephen J. Richardson, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear

The forthcoming CD and VR products are exciting to say the least. Unfortunately, despite all the media coverage given to the games aspect, VR is still some way from being the next games medium. The companies that are investing in VR technology are still researching more 'practical' uses such as training military and commercial pilots, training military and police forces in the use of firearms and, naturally, the medical possibilities, Imagine a surgeon being able to travel through a VR simulation of a human body. Of course, as soon as a games freak with the VR technical know-how comes along and produces the first commercially available VR game, there's going to be no turning back. By the way, for more about the VR gameshow that you've just mentioned turn to our feature on page 28.

### **SOCCER SOUNDS**

Dear The One, Kick Off is just about perfect now but the game is lacking sound.

So how about Anco bringing out a sounds disk? They could go to different football matches to find out the different songs sung and get them down on disk. Also you could have claps when the 'keeper makes a save, a permanent crowd noise rising when a team breaks or someone goes on a run and booing people. Also whistling near the end of a match would be effective.

Another thing that would change the game would be different nets on the goals. A soggy net that flew backwards when the ball went in the back of it. With some neat graphical touches they could take away the boards behind the goals and put in a close-up

stand (terrace), so that when people score you see the crowd go mad.

In Final Whistle, the players jump on the scorer when a goal is scored - instead of that players should run into the corner where the crowd is cheering and celebrate.

My friends and I realise that this would take some brilliance but we believe Dino and company can do it. Come on Anco, hurry up with Kick Off 3 (please).

Paul Beevis, Thorpe End, Norwich

### FOOTBALL FROLICS

Dear The One,
Recently a friend came
around to my place to play
Kick Off 2 because he
hadn't seen it, so I left him to
play it while I had my tea.

When I came back he was very upset and said that the game was a load of rubbish and that he only had three players compared to the opposition's 22 and that his team didn't show any interest in playing football and hadn't once kicked the ball and were hardly ever seen on screen.

We both had a good laugh about the whole thing when I pointed out that his so called 'team' were actually the referee and the two linesmen.

Mark Watson, Lea, Preston

Lucky you both saw the funny side, eh? Do any other readers have amusing 'computer mistake' stories? If so, send them in to us and we may send you a prize (then again, we may not).

### GOOD TO BE GREEN

Dear The One,
I feel I must write to you to
express my views on a
certain subject - the
packaging of games. Are the
large boxes which games
are being packed in really

**LETTERS** 

THE ONE

MAY 1991

necessary or are they just there to publicise and promote the games along the lines of 'big is best'?

In this time when we should be addressing the cost to the environment of the waste which the public consume each day, it cannot be acceptable to the majority of the games-buying public to allow software companies to

parcel up games in large boxes, just to promote them as being gigantic.

Some software houses do use big boxes because their products require them (Lucasfilm with Battle Of Britain, for example), but surely it's not necessary in every case.

Martin Power, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

### THE END IS NIGH

Dear The One,
I'd like to comment on two
letters printed in the April
issue. I sort of agree with
Derek Richardson's opinion
about end sequences. The
two games I've managed to
complete were ridiculous
under this point of view. But
playing them was very
enjoyable!

However, I can't see a point in not buying games from companies who don't code great end sequences. Maybe it's because I'm not one of the great gamblers who complete a game in short periods. The main thing for me is addictiveness!

Another of your letter writers, D. Roher, is the coolest dude I've ever heard of: "Do I break the law by owning illegal copies?" Do you break the law by owning stolen money? But he wrote one thing that puzzles me. Do British crackers really mention their address and phone number in their intros? Are they mad? Why don't they just queue in front of the jail?

Thomas Adams, Solingen 1, Germany.

### MONEY FOR NOTHING?

Dear The One,

There's a lot of talk, mostly from software publishers, about the amount of money lost each year through software piracy.

Now, while I don't want to condone piracy in any shape or form, I believe that software houses do nothing to help themselves by tackling the problem in the wrong way.

Many parallels can be drawn between the software industry and the music industry. For one, both are plagued with 'professional pirates' who are making easy money off someone else's hard work. But piracy has been around in the music industry for far longer and even with the larger finances available to combat piracy, record companies are still no nearer to defeating the 'bootleggers' than 10 or 20 years ago.

The unfortunate fact is, that while you may catch the odd syndicate of pirates, many more are still able to continue to operate unabated. The reason for this is clear, they can offer a product available in the shop for far less (visit Cyprus and you can buy Arnie's latest film for the cost of a tape).

It is in this area that software companies can help both themselves and ordinary Joe Public. If you look at the average price of a Top Twenty game, you can expect to pay between £25-30. If you compare that to the price of a Top Twenty CD, then the price is less than half that, around £12.

How can software companies justify charging this extortionate amount? Especially when they know that the majority of software is purchased by the 15-25 year old age bracket, the bracket with the least amount of money to spend. It's no wonder people are tempted to buy a copied version for a fraction of the price.

So come on software houses, give us, the real victims, a break. It's getting really hard to tell who the REAL pirates are now!!

Aiden Kearns,

Gatow, Germany

Dear The One.

I read with interest, in both yours and other magazines, the continuing debate on piracy. I would like to air some of my views.

Accepting the fact that piracy is morally wrong, I disagree with the so-called dogooders, that nobody should touch it because it is implied that this in turn pushes up the price of software for the rest of the public.

Well, firstly may I say that without encountering these pirate copies of software, I would not have bought several of the games that I now own. Which brings me to my second point, the cost of the software itself. Everybody, including yourself, justifies the high prices due to programming the games, production and packaging costs (plus an attempt to counter piracy itself). Well I can go with the programming costs but as for production costs, sorry but no. How can the software companies justify the £20-30 price tag for 16-bit games, when they can sell off the same game on a different format for around £10?

Now you can't tell me that the cost of disks has anything to do with it. After all, your magazine advertises blank disks for around 40p, when I suspect that tapes would cost the same, if not more. As for piracy, well I don't honestly believe that any society will ever banish it, be it software, music or video. Paul Jones,

Address Withheld

### MORE SPEED PLEASE

Dear The One,
Can I please use the good offices of your magazine as a way of contacting the Bitmap Brothers. This letter is specifically meant for them to read, but it would be interesting to see other readers' views on the subject.

The first thing that I would like to do is thank the Bitmaps for producing the greatest, most playable game ever (move over Dino Dini) - I am of course referring to Speedball 2. I have spent countless hours battling with the best that the computer could throw at me (as my poor neglected wife will confirm).

My main reason for writing this is to ask the Bitmaps to consider (if they haven't already done so) bringing out a data disk or disks (as Anco are doing with Kick Off 2) to make this superb game even better.

As a two-player game it needs nothing really adding to it, however in the one player mode it has one or two limitations which detract from the game's long-term lastability, the main one



being the fact that the game comes to an end after a maximum of two seasons when in the league option. It lacks the continuity needed for the long-term enjoyment.

One or two of the ideas that I have come up with are only minor additions, but at the same time are things that I think would enhance the overall atmosphere of the game. Things like the addition of individual team colours (similar to the kit design option in Kick Off 2) and individual team insignia. The insignia of the home team could be displayed on the floor of the arena. around the centre line (as they do in American football) to give a real home and away match feel. Also, teams playing at home could be programmed to slightly raise their game and thus be stronger than when they play away matches, so aiding home advantage.

As I have already said, these are just minor changes, the biggest addition that I (and I am sure many others as well) would like to see is an expanded league system to enable the game to be ongoing, thus enabling you to keep your team of carefully nurtured players together through thick and thin. The format could copy that of the football league, with four divisions and include promotions, relegations and cup competitions at various times throughout the season. The transfer market could be expanded to allow star players to be available to all teams, so that over a period of time teams like Revolver and Raw Messiahs could improve rather than just being the league jokers year after year.

I am sure that the Bitmap
Brothers could come up with
other and probably better
ideas than these and other
readers could add their own
thoughts. I started thinking
about all this just after I had
played 28 games in a row
(allowing for the odd break)
and had won both the
second and first division
titles, thereby ending the

### SERGEANT SOFTWARE



Strong of arm, wise with words and generous with games, everyone's famous N.C.O. continues in his quest to bring software to the needy. If you think you fit into that category, send your begging letters to: Sgt. Software, The One, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.

Dear Sarge,

I am an ugly-looking schoolboy with no money. Things are so bad that when I go around to the shop for my favourite magazine I get picked on and everybody laughs at me. So now I'm going to stay in my room for the rest of my life - please send me some games to keep me company.

Wayne H., Tamworth, Staffordshire.

Believe me, Wayne, I sympathise completely with your plight for, although it may now be almost impossible to believe, I too was once an ugly teenager. However I'm not sending you any software as the answer to your problems is not to sit in your bedroom sulking - get out there into the real world and revel in your ugliness. You never know, one day you may grow up to be a glorious hunk of manhood just like me.

Dear Sarge,

I was once a very happy computer with a caring owner. But now I think that he has another - a small human, a girl I think, who goes by the name of 'daughter'. If I could send him a gift of my own, to show how much I cared for him, it might help make him see who his true love really is. You're my last hope:

Anne Onymous (True love of Wayne Morledge), Derby.

Just face facts Anne, you've lost that loving feeling, now it's gone, gone, gone... (don't worry though, Wayne's daughter will be grown up in about 16 years and then you can get back together).

game. So my team of superstars were to be disbanded and I would have to start again from scratch next time. This is fine for a couple of times, but it soon starts to get annoying having to start again in the second division where the game speed is so slow compared to the first division and you have to go about buying the same old star players.

Having read this last bit back to myself it sounds as though I am knocking the game, but that is the last thing I want to do. As I said at the beginning of the letter, Speedball 2 is in my opinion the best game ever and I am just looking

for ways to increase its longevity.

I hope that Eric
Matthews from the Bitmap
agrees with at least some
of my comments (I believe
that he was the guiding
light behind the project)
and can see the
possibilities.

Robert Kirk, Thorneywood, Nottingham

Over to you Bitmaps...

Dear Sarge,

My mentally handicapped son John is 15 years old and very fond of his computer which he won from a magazine. As my wife and I are both unemployed (and living with my mother), we are unable to buy games. The computer is John's only decent possession, so we would be very grateful if you could offer a small amount of software to him as a surprise from us.

S. Mooney, Liverpool, Merseyside.

Your tale has warmed even the coldest cockles of my heart. £100 worth of software will be on its way to you in the very near future.

Dear Sarge.

One day my brother went to Margate. While he was away, I decided to play on his computer - I shoved in a disk but it didn't work so I reset it and then put in a few more disks, but nothing worked. When my brother got home, I told him what happened. He tried them out and said angrily: "You've put a Virus on every disk." He looked as though he was going to hit me, so I pulled at his T-shirt for mercy - but I ripped it. He said: "You have one month to get me £100 worth of software and a T-shirt." Help!

Lee Burlingham;

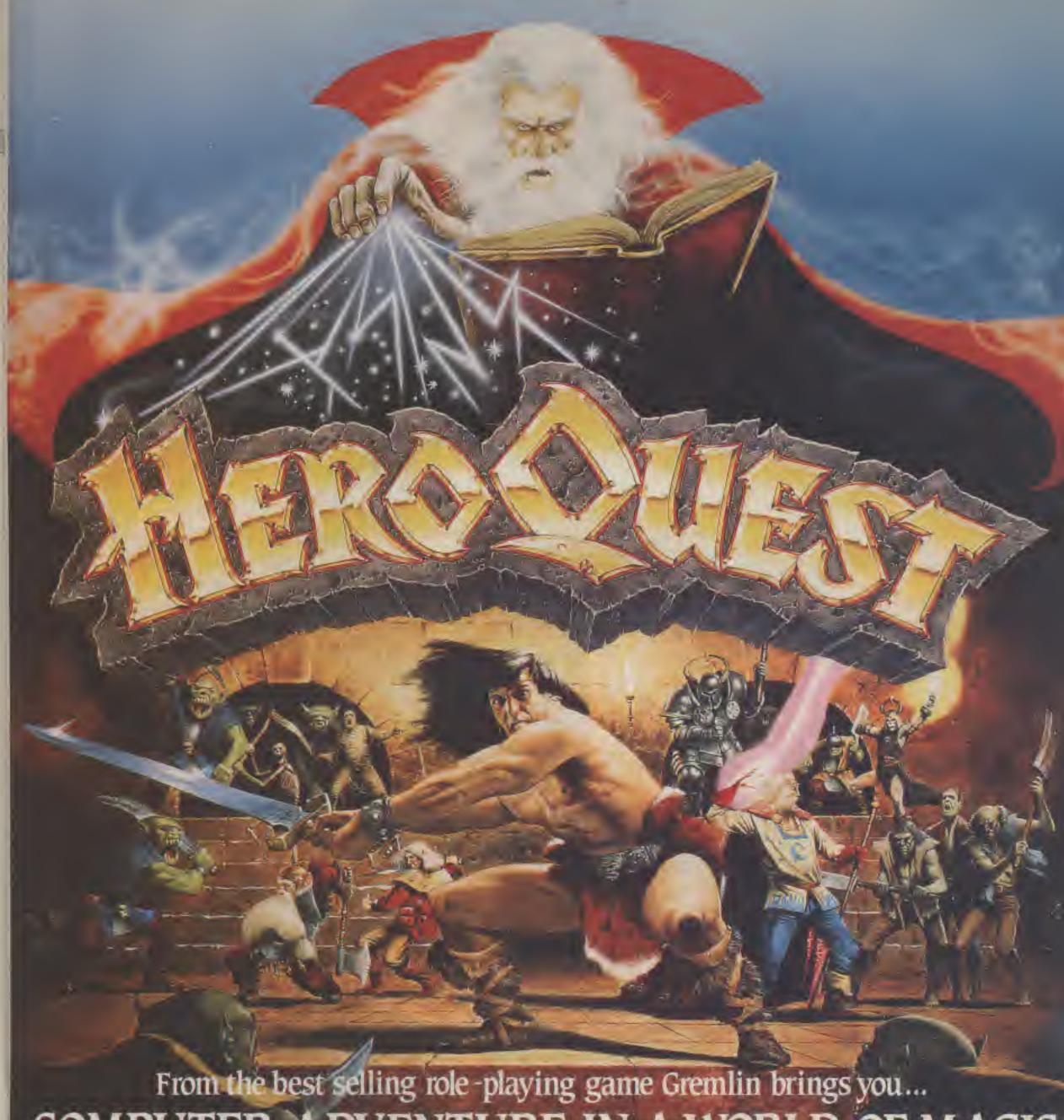
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire,

Sorry Lee, but you've made your bed so you can lie on it. Your brother may seem harsh, but to be perfectly honest if you'd ruined my software collection (which you couldn't because it's so yast) I'd have probably done exactly the same.

The One's offices are located just across the road from The Guardian 's building - which may be the reason why we received the following letter which was actually meant for that paper's 'note and queries' section...

"Has anyone ever calculated the area that would be covered if every single person on the planet were to stand shoulder to shoulder in one place?"

Does anyone out there know the answer - and, more to the point, does anyone really care? If you do know, keep it to yourself you boring git!



### COMPUTER ADVENTURE IN A WORLD OF MAGIC









Screen shots from Amiga version

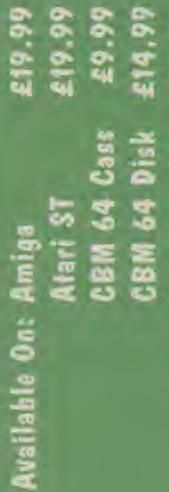
Gremlin Graphics Software Ltd., Carver house, 2-4 Carver Street, Sheffield S1 4FS Tel: (0742) 753423



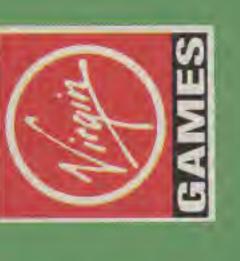
HeroQuest \* 1990 Milton Bradley Ltd.

Available On:
Amiga • Atari ST/STE •
Spectrum, Amstrad and
C64 cassette & disk
(PC VERSION AVAILABLE SUMMER 91)





Spectrum Cass £9.99
Spectrum Disk £14.99
Amstrad Cass £9.99
Amstrad Disk £14.99



Brown Publishing/House of Viz and John ertronic Mast @ 1991 Virgin

## TWO MORE FOR BUDGET

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE OF YOU ON THE LOOKOUT for a few cut-price classics (that's just about everyone, isn't it?). Not ones to be left out when

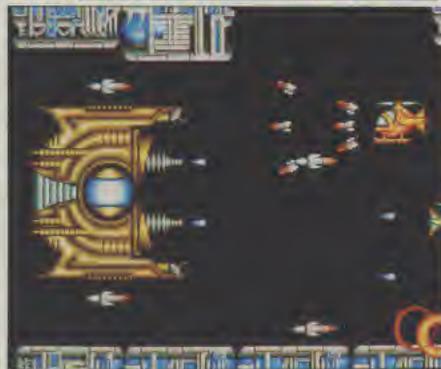
there's a bandwagon going around, both Domark and Psygnosis are planning to rerelease some of their bulging back catalogues on two allnew budget labels.

Domark's little one has been christened Respray and is expected to churn out two new titles each month, starting from April. Top of the list are the slick Licence To Kill and the classic Hard Drivin'. If you want them, all you have to do is hand over £7.99.

The first releases due out on Psygnosis' label, Sizzlers, include Baal, Ballistix, Blood Money and the excellent Infestation. A definite price point had yet to be decided for these as The One went to press, but chances are that you'll be able to get your grubby mitts on those games you missed first time around in exchange for a wad no bigger than a tenner.







Licence To Kill (top) and Blood Money: more for less.

### TOP TEN MAY 1991

- 1 > FINAL WHISTLE
- 2 ▲ OPERATION WOLF Hit Squad
- 3 A LITTLE PUFF Code Masters
- 4 ▼ FANTASY WORLD DIZZY Code Masters
- 5 ▲ VIZ Virgin Games
- 6 ▼ STEVE DAVIS WORLD SNOOKER CDS
- 7 NE KICK OFF EXTRA TIME Anco
- 8 ▼ SPEEDBALL 2 Image Works
- 9 A GARY LINEKER'S HOT SHOTS
  Kixx
- 10 ▼ CONTINENTAL CIRCUS 16 Blitz

### **GOGGLE BOX**

WHO SAYS THAT A TV HAS TO BE SQUARE4 Philips doesn't With the Discoverer, the Dutch electronics giant is targetting the untapped hip and trendy TV market - the kind of people who want a TV which "looks attractive both on and off." So, if you think you'd be over the moon with a TV shaped like a space-helmet in the corner of your bedroom here's your chance. The Discoverer, complete with detachable black visor, dark glass 14" screen, anthracite remote control and sleep timer is a mere snip at £249.99.

### AD&D GOES 3D

HOT ON THE HEELS of Pool Of Radiance, Curse Of The Azure Bonds and other such SSI classics, comes Eye Of The Beholder, the first AD&D 'second edition' computer role-playing game.

The story, set in the Forgotten Realms city of Waterdeep and based on the TSR modules Waterdeep And The North, City System and The Ruins Of Undermountain, deals with the exploits of a group of adventurers assigned to search the metropolis' underground for signs of a criminal mastermind.

There are six different races and character classes to choose from and the escapade takes place inside a 3D



environment complete with a new Dungeon Master-style point-and-click interface. Eye Of The Beholder is available now at a price of £29.99 - and, believe it or not, its sequel, Eye Of The Beholder 2, is already under development.



## THE GEAR!

MOVE OVER GAMEBOY, your position as the number one hand-held games machine could be in jeopardy, thanks to a colourful little fellow that's just arrived in from Tokyo.

Virgin Mastertronic - the company that's already brought some of you the MegaDrive - is now going to take its attempts at world domination to the streets with the launch of Sega's latest brainchild, the Game Gear handheld console.

This machine, which has already sold over 1,000,000 units in Japan since its launch three months ago, sports a 3.2" backlit LCD screen (which can display up to 32 colours simultaneously) and pumps out stereo sound through its built-in speakers.

Power is supplied by six LR6 batteries (that's Walkman batteries to the uninitiated), which will be initially gobbled up by a range of software which includes Super Monaco G.P., Columns, Mickey Mouse, G-Loc, Wonderboy, Dragon Crystal, Shinobi, Golden Ase and Pengo.

A number of optional extras will become available over the months following the machine's initial launch, including stereo link-up cables, car cigarette lighter adapter link cables and so on - but what makes the Game Gear unique among its peers is its ability to convert into a colour TV by the addition of a TV tuner module which should also be available later this year.

Virgin intends to get the Game Gear into the shops by early Summer, with the standalone machine setting you back just a penny short of a 'ton' - and hopes to shift at least 100,000 of them before the end of the year. But if you don't fancy spending £99.99, and want to be the first kid on your block to have 32 colours to play around with, then why not enter our simple competition?

All you have to do is answer the following question: Pop the answer on the back of a postcard and send it to Get The Gear, The One, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Entries will be accepted right up until the close of play on May 9th 1991.

### FIVE GO BINARY

"IT'S A LOVELY DAY, HURRAH!" CRIED JULIAN, leaping out of bed, "I don't know why, but it always seems very important that it should be sunny on the first day of a holiday, Let's wake Atme."

Marvelling at the beauties of the English countryside, munching chocolate at midnight and crinking lashings of ginger beer - all these pleasures and pleuty more are yours for the asking thanks to the first ever computerised version of English Rlyton's ramous five.

Yes folks, courtesy of Enigma Variations, those wholesome, hearty kids are back.
Julian, Dick, George, Anne (and Timmy the dog) are embroiled in their debut digital
adventure - so it's bicky they were their rubber-soled shoes.

In Pine On A Treasure Island you too can enjoy the thrills and spills of action, adventure and twee holiday fun. You can play any member of the famous livesome, from Ceorge the ridiculous tomboy to Timmy the almost human dog.

The whole shebang has been authorised by the Blyton Estate and should be available from all reputable software shops now

### THE GOAL-DEN SHOT

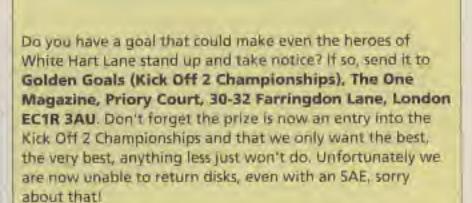
The Kick Off 2
Golden Goal Of The Month
PRESENTED BY THE ONE
MAGAZINE AND ANCO
THE KICK OFF 2 GOLDEN GOAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

THIS MONTH SEES YET ANOTHER FIRST for the Golden Goals competition - our first ever international winner! Yup, all the way from Sweden, home of Arsenal's overly-dramatic Anders Limpar, comes Robert Halvarsson and an effort that would make even Tottenham's glorious but deadly striker Gary Lineker proud. Robert is the first (but we hope not last) international player to make it into the Kick Off 2 Championships. How did he get there? Like this...

TAKING THE BALL NEATLY from the feet of his opponent during a tough centre-circle battle, , Robert's number four breaks free and lays in a long floating pass towards the corner flag.

TIMING HIS RUN to perfection, the fleet-footed winger picks up the pass and turns towards the goal. As he enters the area, a superb turn around the hapless defender leaves him clear to chip in a cross.

THE BALL FLOATS
ACROSS the
mouth of the goal
as the 'keeper
dives to cover it.
But Robert's
Lineker clone has
launched himself
to make a
spectacular flying
header - goal!



### IGNORE THESE RULES AT YOUR PERIL

FAILURE TO COMPLY with any of these regulations merits instant disqualification.

1) No more than THREE (3) goals per disk and no more than one disk per entrant.

All goals MUST be scored by the entrant and NOT by the computer (even in Position play you have to be the one that gets it in the net). We can tell, so don't waste our time.
 The disk LABEL must contain the following information: the entry's format (Amiga or Atari ST), the entrant's name, address and (if applicable) telephone number. A description of the goals would also be handy, along with what type of pitch they were scored on.

## 



### ... HE'S IN TOWN WITH A FEW DAYS TO KILL

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NEWS

THE NEXT ALL FORMATS COMPUTER FAIR will take place in London's New Harmallural Hall on Saturday May 18th Tickets and further information can be had from John Riding on (0225) 868 100.

## ATTACK OF

REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS when computers were called One and Vic-20 and most areade machines sported row upon row of little green men?

If that last sentence has just made you go all blubby and the thought of having another try at Space Invaders makes you weak at the knees, then Domark's

forthcoming licence of the Taito coin-op Sujiet Space Invaders '91 could provide exactly the right nostalgia trip. Due to hit the shops some time around September, this updated version of the first real coin-op smash features all of the original's bug-eyed monsters and firing tactics (does anyone actually remember how many invaders you had to kill before you got a maximum score for the mothership?) plus loads of enhanced graphics,

new backdrops and a whole array of updated alien wave patterns. Coming right back to

the future, Domark also

has a whole host of spring releases up its sleeves. Watch out for 3D speedboat action in Hydra, Thunderjaws (an undersea extravaganza) and R.B.I. Baseball, all due

By the way, we may not know how many invaders you had to shoot, but we do know what R.B.J. stands for ... That may sound. like a cue for a quick competition - and it is! There's a Domark Tshirt up for grabs to the first reader who drops us a postcard marked Baseball Boyver at the usual address letting us know what those initials mean.



out in the next couple of months.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF some of the prices quoted for software in the latest issue seem a little odd. The recent hudger's Inke in V.A.T. rais has meant that the £24,99 and £19,94 price points may not be with us for very much longer. We'll keep you posted.

STAYING WITH DOMARK, its latest compilation contains five of the best arcade conversions published for a long while, namely the bilatious sci-fi blast Escape From The Planet Of The Robot Monsters. the frenetic cops 'n' robbers chase A.P.B., the Tetris-rivalling Klax. the two-player futuristic tank battler Vindicators and the robotic American football sim Cyberball. The Winning Team (for that 15 its name) is available now at £29.99



Klax: now just part of a winning team.



Come on you blues ...

MR AND MRS BLUES TWO EAVOURITE SONS, Jake and Elwood, are about to take their 'Mission from God' from the large screen to the small, as Titus has signed up the rights to the John Belushi/Dan Ackroyd classic, The Blues Brothers. That's about it as far as details go, except to say that you can expect a release before the end of the year.

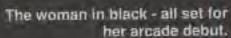
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT YOU'D

SEEN THE BACK OF ELVIRA (who'd want to see her back?), MicroValue is all set do for joystick jugglers what Accolade's Elvira - Mistress Of The Dark did for adventurers.

An Elvira arcade game is currently being programmed by Flair Software (in conjunction with the adventure game's programmer, Horrorsoft) and features the great witch herself fighting wickedness in tandem with her trusty pink poodle.

Together they battle through three different alien-infested worlds fighting evil, enchanting monsters and battling baddies.

Billed by MicroValue spokesman Colin Courtney as an arcade game with parallax scrolling and Beastsized graphics, the new Elvira experience is due out in October.





THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TOO LAZY to unplug your

mouse when you want

### WHEN THE CHIMPS ARE DOWN

ELECTRONIC ZOO BECOMES YET ANOTHER PUBLISHER to dip its toe into budget pool, with the announcement of its Monkey Business label. The first four rereleases to bear the monkey's mark will be (appropriately) Jungle Book, Paris-Dakar Rally, 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea and

Asterix, which will set you back £7.99 each and should be

April. Meanwhile,
Electronic Zoo has a fluffy monkey to give
away to anyone who can come up with the
cleverest, wittiest, and most rib-tickling
name for their label's monkey mascot.
Send in your suggestions on the back of a
postcard remembering to include your
complete name and address to Monkey's
Uncle, The One, Emap Images, Priory
Court, 30-32 Parringdon Lane, London.
EC1R 3AU, and you too could be playing
zoo at home.



REMIXES AND RE-RELEASES aren't just confined to the music biz, as Novagen's latest release demonstrates. Encounter, by Paul Woakes (the chap behind Mercenary and Damocles), is about to make a reappearance dressed up in all-new 16-bit clothes. Make your encounter now - for £20.42.



to indulge in a little two-player temploolery, may be interested in a new product from Jossy UK. The Roboshift is an extension cable which converts one of your computer's joystick ports into a double socket, allowing two joysticks and a mouse to be used simultaneously. For further details, contact Josty on (0642)

### MAKE TRACKS FOR CASH

FOR ALL WOULD-BE ENGINE DRIVERS who just haven't got the cash or the floor-space to splash out on a Hornby, MicroProse's PC simulator Railroad Tycoor (reviewed way back in Issue 21) was a dream come true.

And now that dream could be your too, as this superb 'train 'n' transaction' game is about to make an appearance on your computer.

Using a Sim City style interface, the game allows you to wheel, deal and build your own railroad in Europe, England or the American East and West coasts.

If you've got what it takes to cope with disaster, fluctuating prices and ruthless competition, you can build up your humble empire from tiny branch-line into huge transcontinental concern. All you need is skill, perseverance - oh, and £29.99.

### ON-LINE TIME

CRL IS DEAD, LONG LIVE ON-LINE ENTERTAINMENT. CRL, the veteran Londonbased publisher finally closed up shop last month after a long and varied career which produced such notable 8-bit fare as Tau Ceri and Jack The Ripper.

However, this tradition may yet continue, as in true phoenix style, a new company has formed from the ashes - that company is On-Line Entertainment.

The first release from the newly-formed publisher is to be Battle Bound, a scrolling beat 'em up where the hunky hero, Calumn, enters the Temple Of Pain in a search for the allpowerful Golem. You guessed it, this results in three-levels

of hacking, slashing and animated mayhem.

To promote this release, On-Line is offering one lucky reader of The One a chance to pick up the flashy axe pendant shown here - it's so sharp it'll probably take your head off.

To be in with a chance to pick up this enviable prize, just answer the following simple question: What weapon does White Dwarf's character

Thrud the Barbarian use to slaughter his victimas'
Pop the answer on the back of a postcard (or scaled
envelope) and send it along with your name and address to:
Bound To Win, The One, EMAP Images, Priory Court,
30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU to arrive no
later than May 9th 1991.



## mouse to be used simultaneously. For further details, contact Josty on (0642) 759000.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT joysticks couldn't get any weirder, along comes Spectravideo's Manta Ray to prove you wrong. Heralded as probably the most comfortable joystick in the world', the Manta Ray's unusual shape is a product of its supposedly ergonomical design. If you want to test this for yourself, the stick should be available right now, for £12.99.

### NERS...WINNERS...WINN

IN ISSUE 30, STORM'S SWIV COMPETITION offered one lucky winner the chance to drive away the 'Midnight Pumpkin', a fabulous remote-controlled 1/14th scale customised 1958 Ford F-100 pick-up truck.

However, the three questions we asked proved a little too difficult, as most of you put down Silkworm as Storm's first release - the correct answer is, of course, that Storm opened its account with St Dragon!

Some of you did get it right though, and the

eventual winner, who'll soon be burning rubber all around Norfolk, was... James McGhee of Norwich. Safe driving James.

Also in Issue 30, US Gold offered driving fans a chance to test their skills at a racing school at the famous Silverstone circuit.

This time it was our turn to make a small mistake with the questions: as Chris Gray from the Isle Of Wight pointed out, the first question should have read 'Which famous British sportsman drove for Ferrari's Formula 1 racing team?, as Nigel Mansell has now moved to Williams. Thanks for pointing that out to us Chris, but there's no prize on its way to you - as nobody likes a smart-ass.

Huge amounts of you did manage to answer the three questions just the way we liked them, but the one which separated itself from the crowd came from... Martyn Reed of Kenley in Surrey. Congratulations Martyn, if you hold a full licence, you'll be zooming around Silverstone in next to no time.

## GOLDEN JOYSTICKS

### AWARDS



A JUBILANT ANIL GUPTA (Centre) of Anco collects the award for Game Of The Year from our very own Laurence Scotford (right).

AN EVEN MORE
JUBBLANT Nick
Alexander (second
right) of Virgin
Mastertronic and
Nobuhiko Ishihara
(right) of Sega collect
the Hardware Manufa
editor of Ace (left).

Nobuhiko Ishihara (right) of Sega collect the Hardware Manufacturer Of The Year award from Jim Douglas,

ON THURSDAY APRIL 4TH, at the Rooftop Gardens, Kensington, the most prestigious industry awards were held. Everybody who is anybody in the games world was at the event, which was hosted by The One, PC Leisure, ACE, CU Amiga, Sinclair User, Computer + Video Games and Mean Machines. Following the usual

industry chat over a drink and a sumptous slap-up feast, the awards were presented by funny man Danny Baker from London's GLR radio

station and the editorial staff of Emap Images magazines. So, with hearty congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those who nobly fell by

the wayside, here's who you voted for in 1991.



OCEAN'S GARY BRACEY (right) collects the prestigious Software House Of The Year award for Terry Pratt, managing director

of Emap Images.

ANDREW WRIGHT

(LEFT) of Virgin

Games collects

Golden Axe's award

from Steve James

(right), editor of (1)

Amiga.



MOMENTS OF TERROR (number 53 in a series of 100); consulting the seating plan to discover that you've been placed next to Laurence Scotford.

GARY BRACEY OF OCEAN (centre) gets contered by lan Hetherington (left) and Jonathan Ellis (right), bothof Psygnosis: "So. Ocean have won Software House of the Year again, eh?..."





Nominations:

Winner:

Shadow Of The Beast 2—
Psygnosis
Powermonger – Electronic Arts
Space Ace – Entertainment
International
Shadow Of The Beast 2

- Psygnosis

REST SOUNDTRACK

Nominations: Speedball 2 - Mirrorsoft
Toyota Celica GT Rally - Gremlin
Graphics
Lotus Turbo Esprit Challenge Gremlin Graphics

Winner:

Winner:

BEST SIMULATION

Nominations:

F-19 Stealth Fighter – MicroProse F-29 Retaliator – Ocean Kick Off 2 – Anco F-19 Stealth Fighter – Microprose

Speedball 2 - Mirrorsoft



personality - and the funniest man in the world...

DOMARK'S MARK STRACHAN has a moment of sheer panic when he realises that he can't hold his filofax and the tray of drinks he ordered at the same time.

### BEST COIN-OP CONVERSION

Nominations: Golden Axe – Virgin Games

Rainbow Islands - Ocean Off-Road Racer - Virgin Games

Winner: Golden //xe - Virgin

WAME OF THE YEAR

Nominations: Powermonger - Electronic Arts

Kick Off 2 - Anco

Golden Axe - Virgin Games

Winner: Kick Off 2 - Aneo

### HARDWARE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

Nominations: Commodore

Nintendo

Sega

Winner: Segn

### SOFTWARE HOUSE OF THE YEAR

Nominations: Ocean

MicroProse Electronic Arts

Winner: Ocea

### THAT WAS THEN

LET'S GO RIGHT BACK IN TIME NOW, to a time when games were games and it Came From The Desert was just a gleam in Cinemaware's eye. From here on, 'That Was Then...' will be a regular feature, where we look back at what was happening two years ago.

So, believe it or not, this issue we're focusing on Issue 8 - which was launched on an unsuspecting world in May 1989.

The front cover was (and still is) the Ed's favourite, featuring that distinctive

blood-stained 'smiley' badge which began life as the cover motif of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' brilliant Watchmen graphic novel, only to be briefly adopted by the short-lived acid house 'Summer Of Love'.

And what better way to kick off this look back, then by asking a wellworn question: whatever happened to the Watchmen?

In Issue 8 we announced that the ex-Python animation maestro Terry Gilliam was to start work on a film of the book. The producer was in place (Joel Silver, the man behind Die Hard, Predator and Letha) Weapon among others) the script, by Sam Hamm, was knocking around in 'first draft' form and Gilliam himself was displaying enormous enthusiasm for the project.

So what went wrong?

Details become very, very sketchy at this point, but it appears that after Gilliam's producers had their fingers burned by the massive cost of his Baron Von Munchausen project, they were suddenly (and understandably) a little less willing to put a great deal of cash into his next effort and the tale of contemporary superheroes was put, as they say, 'on ice'.

There is good news though. Gilliam has just finished another film, The Fisher King with Jeff Bridges, and should this be a success then it's possible that the Watchmen could be his next thing.

Ocean, who snapped up the licence to the book some time ago, is holding fire on producing the computer game until the movie has been sorted out. It's highly likely that we haven't heard the last of this one.

Moving quickly along to games that did actually make it to the shelves, Xenon II made its first ever public appearance in our Work In Progress pages. The most visible of Bitmaps, Eric Matthews, talking of this soon-to-be-a-smash project, was quoted as saying: "Sustaining interest is the most difficult thing. You can't pack everything into the first level and carry on playing." As history has proved, sustaining interest was the least of Xenon 2's worries.

The review pages also threw up a bumper crop including Forgotten Worlds, Balance Of Power - The 1990 Edition, Silkwonn, Grand Monster Slam and RoboCop - but the highest scorer turned out to be Typhoon Thompson in The Search For The Sea Child with a relatively low 88 per cent. Where is Typhoon now?

Finally, we carried news of the impending release of New Zealand Story and caught a first glimpse of Cinemaware's It Came From The Desert and also featured Deluxe Paint III. The Sega Master System and Sierra's launch into Europe through Activision.

Watch out next month for another trip down memory lane as we east our eyes back to the Summer of '89 and Issue 9.

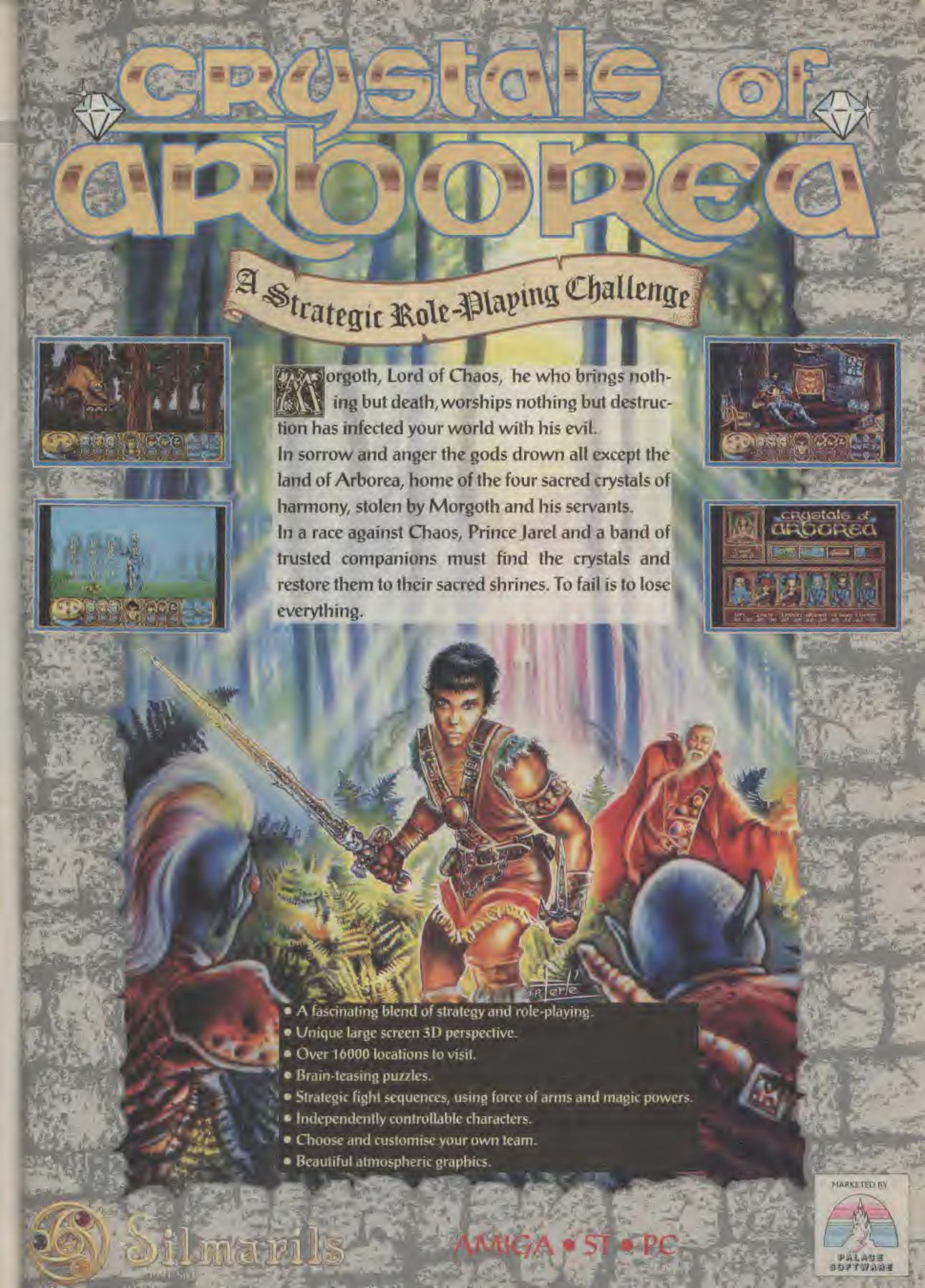


THE ONE

MAY1991

### 100 GAMES UP FOR GRABS

kay, we know we only asked you all of these questions a couple of months ago, but now that the magazine has become dedicated purely to ST games, it's time to do it all over again. We know that you'd all move mountains to help us out, but if you do need a little incentive we're willing to stump up another mountain of software to the first 100 replies out of the bag. So, fill out the survey (or a photcopy if you like) and send it to The One survey, EMAP, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Right, that's enough waffle get scribbling.		7. As well as The One, which magazines do you regularly buy?		
		ACE C&VG ST Action ST Format ST User ST World Zero	0000000	
1. Are you?		Other (please specify)		
Male Female		8. Which peripherals do y	ou own or	intend to buy?
2. How old are you?			Own	Intend to buy
Under 10 10 - 12 13 - 15 16 - 18 19 - 21 22 - 25 25 - 30 Over 30		Colour Monitor Printer Hard Disc Drive External Floppy Drive Modem RAM Expansion Other (please specify)	000000	000000
3. What is your occupation	on?	A 18/05-b shows a 40-00-0		
Full-time work Part-time work School Third-level education Other	00000	9. Which three software consider to be the most i	mportant?	***************************************
4. How many people other than yourself will read this issue of The One?		10. How do you rate the contents of The One's cover-mounted disk?		
5. On average, how much each month?	do you spend on games	Excellent Fair Poor	000	
0-£25 £25-£50 £51-£75 £76 or more	0000	11. What other features v The One?  12. Would you consider s	***************	****************
6. Which is your favourit	e type of game?	Yes	п	
Arcade Puzzle Sports Simulation Strategy RPG Animated Adventure Text-Input Adventure		No	<u>ā</u>	************************
		ADDRESS	************	+22414444+231+123+444444



## YOU KHAN WIN WITH KRISALIS

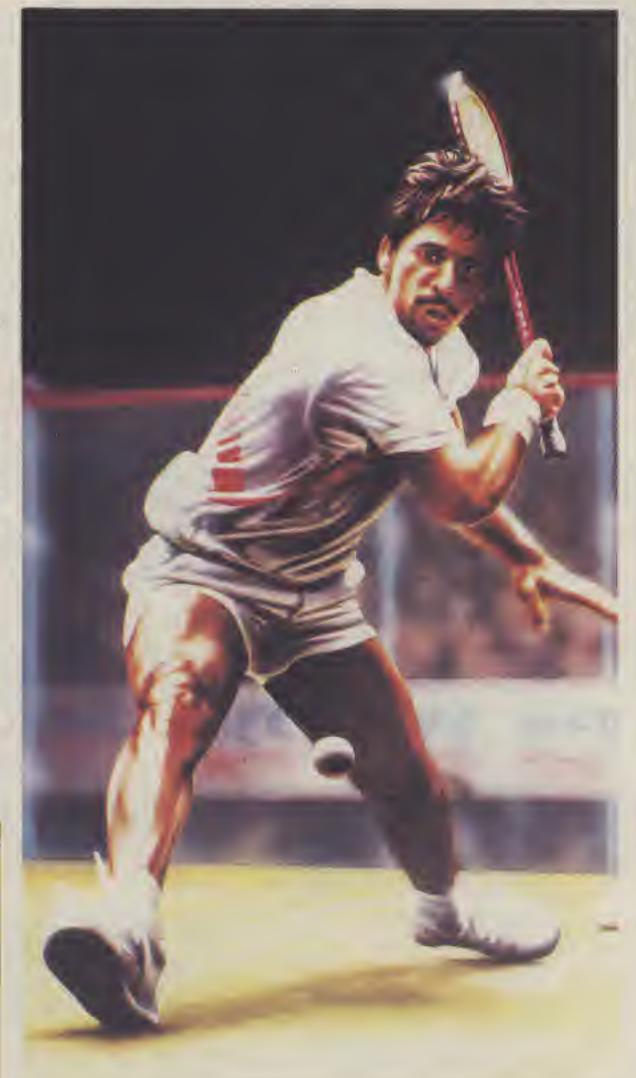
MAGINE THIS SITUATION. You're an executive in a dead-end nowhere job, busy sucking up to your boss to try to improve your position. Then, he turns around and invites you for a game of squash. Eagerly you accept and begin to work out how much you'll need to lose by to keep your job. When you get home though, disaster strikes as you find that your old squash racquet has been used as a pair of snowshoes by the little 'uns. What are you going to do?

Well, if you're the winner of this Jahangir Khan's World Championship Squash competition, you could just whip out your brand new, exclusively-autographed squash racquet and lap up the admiration of everyone on the court.

Not only that, but the lucky winner of this great Krisalis competition (along with the 10 runners-up) will also receive a copy of Jahangir Khan's World Championship Squash to brush up their skills with.

So just answer these simple questions and send your results on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: Thirst Quenchers, The One Magazine, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Your entry must reach us on or before May 9th, 1991 to be eligible.

- How many international games has Khan currently played without defeat?
- a) 50
- b) 500
- c) 5,000
- 2. Which type of squash ball is the fastest?
- a) Blue
- b) Yellow
- c) Green and red striped
- 3. Which famous team was Krisalis' football action/management game based on?
- a) Fulchester Rovers
- b) Wigan Athletic
- c) Manchester United



### THE SMALL PRINT

The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Employees of EMAP and Krisalis, plus their friends and relatives (plus those of the Khan family) are not allowed to enter. The winners names will be printed in a future issue of *The One*.



## COMEGO

Back in 1987,
Broadsword
Productions'
Knightmare first put
adventure games on
national TV. Four
years on, the company
is hoping to repeat
that success with
Cyberzone, a game
where The Crystal
Maze meets virtual
reality. Kati Hamza
tunes in.



BECAUSE THE GRAPHICS are only a 2D simulation of 3D, it was vital to hit upon a way of touching objects which didn't cause any problems with perspective. Using a pistol dispenses with the need to judge distances accurately — all you have to do is line up your sights, squeeze the trigger and hope for the best.

ed Leader is poised for action. Her shoulders are hunched and there are beads of perspiration on her brow. As she searches desperately for the target building, the sights and sounds of the city blur into one. Instructions from her Controller are pounding in her ears — keep left, watch out, Blue Leader is close. Suddenly there's a tremendous noise as a car races by, only missing her by millimetres, before speeding into the distance.

For someone who's just missed death by a whisker Red Leader looks remarkably calm. Why shouldn't she be? The car isn't real and neither is she. This is the Cyberzone — a completely interactive virtual reality.

However, unlike most virtual worlds you won't find it inside a specially manufactured helmet or booming out of a high-tech headset in quadraphonic glory. Cyberzone is virtual reality tailored for TV.

Cyberzone is the brainchild of a collaboration between TV production company Broadsword and Dimension International, a sister company of game developer Incentive. For lan Andrew, head of Dimension and designer of such Freescape classics as Driller, Total Eclipse and Castle Master, it's his second taste of working for TV. He's already contributed graphics for another Broadsword production, BSB's The Satellite Game.

That, and Broadsword's other previous production, Knightmare, were adventures complete with costumes, actors and scenario – Cyberzone is different. Producer Tim Child defines it as: "A new telesport-a straightforward sporting

encounter with a lot of strategy thrown in."

Each of these 'encounters' lasts for 30 minutes and involves two teams of two players (no strain was exerted on the producers' imaginations here, as the teams answer to the 'Red' names and 'Blue'), both aiming to be first to reach the central plaza of a city and turn the golden globe rotating at its heart (appropriately called Centrepoint) to their own colour.



En route, there are obstacles to negotiate, rogue vehicles to dodge and buildings to explore. Targets, some of them mobile, are scattered about the city – tagging these with your pellet pistol gains extra points.

Inside the virtual world, displayed on two giant video walls, each team's 'moves' are played out by a cyborg directly under the Leader's control. The cyborg is manipulated via a mobility station which electronically recreates its physical movements on screen. When the Leader runs, the cyborg runs, when he crouches, stops or turns, the cyborg does it too.

The Leader sees only a firstperson perspective. His team-mate, THE CONTESTANTS only get to see part of the picture. The version that is finally beamed into your living room is an edited amalgamation of 20 virtual cameras — and the team players hardly see any of it. Should things get too tricky though, the Zone Master may just bail you out: after all, it wouldn't make much of a contest if one of the competitors got run over early on...



### FREESCAPE AND SUPERSCAPE

Development of Dimension International's Superscape system, which is responsible for 70 to 80 per cent of Cyberzone's action, began in January 1989. The aim was to develop and expand features which its predecessor Freescape couldn't cope with: mostly because by nature it was a game development technique and limited by the capabilities of the machines on which it ran. Superscape runs faster than Freescape, features higher resolution graphics and has the processing power to cope with many more moving objects — including fully-animated human characters.

If you have access to an IBM-compatible computer and feel like testing all this out for yourself, two PD disks are currently available: one is a running Superscape demo, the other, 3D Benchmark, is a utility designed to give you some idea of the power of your computer. Both can be ordered direct from Incentive/Dimension International (0734 817288) in exchange for £2.50; or you can find them in PD libraries and on bulletin boards.

the Controller, has access to a 'real time' map of the city which displays not only its main architectural features, but also the current position of both Red and Blue Leaders. It's the Controller's job to advise his Leader where to go and what to do by yelling advice into a headset. Should all go well, the programme culminates in a physically-exhausting last-ditch dash straight to the Centrepoint.

In a way, with Knightmare and The Satellite Game acting as pioneers, the first virtual reality game show was really just the next logical step. While both shows were on the air, Freescape, which in total provided

DESPITE BEING BUILT of stain-less steel. the set (here being shown off by host Craig Charles) almost didn't prove strong enough. The mobility stations, proved pretty shaky at the end of two days' filming they'll be reinforced when the series goes on air.

only about 20 per cent of The Satellite Game's action, was blossoming into Superscape, a more flexible independent DOS-based system. When Tim Child saw it, he was suitably impressed.

"I went there expecting to see very much the same sort of thing I saw in Freescape, but was surprised to see they had taken things a lot further." As he saw it, the new system's main advantage was that it was representational.

"In a flight sim you can link two computers together and the players see each other as aeroplanes. What Dimension has done is to produce electronic men and women; when you go into one of their environments and see the other player you see them not as an aeroplane, but as

somebody you can understand and relate to — an animated human shape." Tim saw immediate gameplay and television possibilities.

In one fell swoop, Dimension had overcome one of the main difficulties associated with putting virtual reality on TV. From a producer's point of view, the main problem with most virtual reality leisure applications is that they're 'player experience

based'. While the lucky person wearing theheadset is

looping the loop or blasting seven shades of void out of the universe, everyone else can only look on with their tongues hanging out. Six million envious but frustrated viewers don't make for good TV.

However, thanks to Superscape, the Cyberzone audience actually gets to see more of the action than the players. As well as the real cameras trained on the studio action, there are 20 'virtual' cameras positioned inside the environment itself. These can be attached to objects, characters and buildings from any number of angles - some of which would be impossible to reach in the real world. While Blue Leader dices with death and sweats to spot those targets, switching to the relevant virtual view is guaranteed to make the audience feel smug.

There are other advantages to a



THE VIDEO WALL image is constructed from 12 highdefinition mini-projectors. For the Leaders, the effect is to almost totally envelop their field of view — meanwhile, the rest of the audience gets the chance to share the firstperson virtual reality.

computer-generated reality. In a world where nothing's real, the producer makes the rules. It's perfectly feasible for the game's Zone Master to subtly alter a contest's parameters while the action's going on. "We can introduce new elements, we can raise the pace, we can raise the stakes. It's a bit like winding up the net half-way through a tennis match." Obviously, there are reasons to be careful though: if things are altered so that they have an unequal effect on the teams, the producers could lay themselves open to a charge of cheating.

A successful pilot programme was recorded recently, featuring ebullient Red Dwarf comic Craig Charles as host. Now all they have to do is sell the series — if everything goes according to plan, a full season of Cyberzone contests leading to a

FOR A FULL SHOW'S exploration, read 30 minutes of intense physical jerks— Cyberzone is definitely a tracksuit game.

To avoid mismatching contestants
there are two versions — one almed at
teenagers, the other for adults. The pace
of the pilot programme even surprised
the producer. "Some of the kids and the
adults almost passed out with sheer
excitement. We never expected that — we
thought it was going to be reasonably
exciting, but towards the end of the
session we were actually stationing
people close to the kids in case some of
them overdid it." The result: an age limit
— in true Logan's Run fashion, those who
pass 30 are automatically barred.



THERE HAVE BEEN considerable advances since this, the prototype Superscape human, stood up and walked. At Dimension's headquarters in Aldermaston they're slowly putting together a library of humans for their different movements. He's already learned to run, turn his head and crouch – the ongoing objective is to improve the fluidity and variety of available movements. Plans for an equivalent female version are currently in the pipeline.

### CYBERTECH SPEC

HARDWARE: Cyberzone is made possible by a customised version of Superscape networked on five ICL PCs, each of which displays the action from a different viewpoint. There is one computer each for both the Red and Blue Leaders, providing them with a unique first-person view of the Cyberzone; one shared overhead/map view for both the team Controllers; one computer for the Zone Master, who acts as a kind of in-game god, altering the difficulty and nature of the game as he sees fit; and finally, a computer for the director, who can select any of the 20 in-game virtual cameras.

SPEED: The output speed of the individual computers is 90 frames per second, but because all five run simultaneously, the screen update needs to work at its slowest speed of between five and 15 frames per second to keep everything in synch. A 486 PC (called a Dispatcher) controls the environment and maintains the synchronisation.

GRAPHICS: All of the computers have high-spec SPEA graphics boards: there's a small amount of parallel processing involved to increase the overall speed and detail. The resolution in the pilot was 640 x 480 × 256 colours, although this may well vary in the final broadcasted version with corresponding increases in colour and complexity.

are pre-programmed to adjust their volume according to distance from any of the 20 virtual cameras. Car noises, for example, increase realistically the closer the vehicle gets to the camera. Dimension provided the software that drives the sound — the effects themselves were manufactured separately.



FEATURE

TAKING POT SHOTS at the opposition is considered good tactics and all par for the course; if you're running behind it's an excellent way of knocking down the other team's points. Even so, it's rare for opposing cyborgs to meet.



grand finale should hit our screens this autumn. Whatever happens, Tim Child is convinced that for TV, virtual reality is an open door.

For the present, he predicts that the most common applications are bound to be 2D (that's 3D simulated on a 2D screen), pretty much in the mould of Cyberzone. But once we get high-definition TV, different aspect ratio screens and a 3D viewing experience... who knows? "MOST TV GAME SHOWS go looking for fun," claims Tim Child. "Often it's the 'hurry on down' principle where you cosmetically pretend everything is more urgent than it is." Host Craig Charles was hired to do just that, but in the end all that hype just wasn't needed. At crucial points during filming of the pilot, he was actually asked to calm the kids down.

## TRIP THE FUGH

In the first of a regular feature on what's happening Stateside, Rik Haynes runs through the new features of Spectrum HoloByte's latest attempt to simulate one of the world's mest devastating modernday combat planes and checks out its revolutionary Electronic Battle System...

TME F-16's M61A1 20mm cannon can fire 6,000 rounds per minute - that's 'kick ass' power in anybody's language!



## FANTASTIC

➤ ENERAL DYNAMICS" F-16 FIGHTING FALCON was one of the unsung heroes of the Gulf War. While the F117A Stealth Fighter sneaked into Baghdad and blitzed the media, American F-16's were busy taking out fragi ground targets. in 'dirty' and dangerous combat missions supporting A-10 tank-busters. "The F-16 and A-10 were really the two workhorses of the Gulf War," reveals Spectrum Holobyte CEO Gilman Louie. "The F-16 is low-cost, very agile and does the job."

Spectrum Holobyte originally released Falcon, a simulation of the F-16, on the PC four years ago. Now the San Franciscan company has updated this classic flight-sim. using the very latest software technology and programming techniques. What's the blueprint for the next generation then?

Coming soon on PC, Falcon Mark II really exploits the capabilities of this machine. to the maximum. Unique game features include accurate mapping and 3D contoured terrain, highly detailed campaigns, 'high fidelity' flight model, and joint missions via modern with networking for up to 30 players on the same battlefield. The 'hi-fi' option allows players with a maths co-processor to take full advantage of their hardware for even greater graphic and flight realism - expenencing the actual feel of an F-16, contending with such manoeuvrability factors as lift and drag.

Falcon Mark II requires an IBMcompatible AT (286 or faster) and supports 256-colour VGA, 16-colour VGA, EGA, PS/1, AdLib, SoundBlaster and Roland graphics cards and soundboards. Some of these will even produce digitsed speech.

If your PC is equipped with EMS you can review your performance using the improved 'black box' replay software technology. This feature includes a 3D cube display called TACTS (Tactical Aircrew Combat Training Simulation). which shows your fighter, enemy planes, firing of every missile and the downing of all aircraft in a wireframe environment. If a bird sneezes, you'll know about it with

Players can choose which style of game

they want to play. Instant Action is rather like an arcade game and puts you into a single F-16 in the midst of enemy planes. The action is scored according to how many enemy planes you can shoot down before being killed or ending the game. Fighter Weapons School lets you design and edit the original training missions to help you practice and fine-tune your skills. For example, you could assign four F-16s to go out, be engaged by four MiG-29s and continue on to destroy an airfield. You would plot the flight in and out of the larget area, then run the simulation controlling one of the four planes. If you're unsuccessful, you can try an infinite number of other patterns and options until you get it right.

When you think you're ready for the hard stuff, why not go for a Campaign? Here you control a squadron of 16 planes, eight of which can fly missions simultaneously. The computer assigns each mission to reflect the regional conflict you're currently in. You'll face an even greater threat of enemy forces including SAMs (Surface to Air

Missiles), AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery), small arms fire, Hind helicopters, shoulder-launched missiles and MIG-21, -23, -27 and -29 fighters. It's a good lob you can arm your F-16 with a whole host of weaponry before each mission. No two Campaigns are exactly alike because the computer generates a new set of missions according to your success or failure on the battlefield.

Conversions of Falcon Mark. If to the Amiga and ST are currently under consideration. No price has been set for the PC version, but Falcon Mark II (under the international name of Falcon 3.D) will self for a whopping \$69.95 in the States

GENERAL DYNAMIC'S FIGHTING FALCON was the star of the 1977 Paris Air Show. The f-16 is now in service with countries all over the world, with a basic strip-down model costing a cool \$18 million.



A weird name for a software house, right? The story goes that Spectrum is supposed to represent colour, Holo - 3D and Byte computer. Spectrum HoloByte and Mirrorsoft are actually subsidiaries of the same parent company. The American games developer was started in 1984 and has stuck, in the main, to military simulations. The first release, Gato, was quickly followed by Orbiter (Space Shuttle simulation) and PT-109 (a simulation of a World War Two patrol boat). Then came Falcon in 1987, the company's first big hit. Spectrum HoloByte has even co-developed a



professional version of Falcon to teach US Air Force pilots how to handle computer systems in split-second decision combat situations. "There are too many gauges and switches in modern-day combat aircraft. Pilots really get confused in combat situations," says Gilman Louie, "There was a lot of this happening in the Gulf War. Pilots were forgetting to arm the missiles, bombs and switching to the wrong guidance systems. We offer a low-cost trainer to make pilots aware of the problems." Other games

by the firm from San Francisco include Tank, Vette, Flight Of The Intruder and Stunt Driver. Spectrum Holobyte has also enjoyed considerable success in the USA with Tetris and the other Soviet arcade puzzle games from Alexel Pazhitnov. In addition to the EBS series of military simulations, Spectrum HoloByte is now working on a new range of products under the name of Sphere of Influence. Players can run any country in the world for the next 25 years with simulations of world finances, global power, military and environmental Issues via a TV userinterface. Each channel represents a particular viewpoint of how your actions affect this world. The game is very accurate because Spectrum HoloByte is using data from the World Bank. You also set-up your own goals at the start and the title supports multi-player options in a similar sort of way to the EBS series. This will be available towards the year's end on PC, Amiga and CD-ROM.





AN F-16 CHASES DOWN AN A-10 WARTHOG. By the end of the year, Spectrum HoloByte will

have two flight

sims of these two

planes which will

allow players to

joint-missions or

fight each other.

link-up and fly

FALCON MARK II INCLUDES MANY VIEW OPTIONS, including this backwards shot

with no sign of

the pilot...





### ELECTRONIC BATTLEFIELD SYSTEM

The idea of the Electronic Battiefield System (EBS) is to allow players to buy different games in the series, for example Falcon Mark II and Avenger A-10 followed by a remix of Spectrum HoloByte's Tank product, which will all be able to work simultaneously across the same network. So if you have a LAN (Local Area Network) in your office, say a Novell network, you'll be able to have anywhere from eight or more players controlling helicopters, tanks and planes all working off the same battlefield in a similar scenario.

"You all work together or fight against each other on the same battlefield," confirms Louie.

Hostile company takeovers could soon be fought over simulated sides instead of unexciting spreadsheets! Players could even be in foreign countries thanks to the modern link-up option. "If you were flying an A-10 in London and I was flying an F-16 in New York," says Louie, "we could call each other up and play a scenario where I would have to escort you into a particular mission."

This Electronic Battlefield is a real-time replica of the real-thing. Players can have up to \$270,000 square miles of a battlefield from anywhere in the world. Falcon Mark II will ship with Iraq, Israel and Panama. Spectrum HoloByte/Mirrorsoft will be releasing additional data disks with Korea, Philippines, Central and Eastern Europe. "The system is now capable of handling any terrain," remarks Louie. Spectrum HoloByte used American DMA (Defense Mapping Agency) data, so EBS is accurate to within a quarter of a kilometre and includes all the major cities and landmarks from the areas simulated. It's also 'relief-mapped' so it actually has all the hills, mountains and valleys. The list of ground targets is several pages long and includes skyscrapers, bunkers, trains, rail-yards, tanks, bridges, oil refinery's, and nuclear research facilities.

The 'wars' are campaign orientated, each mission is progresses on from the last one. For example, if you don't destroy the bridge in the previous mission, some enemy tanks could move across it. If you don't destroy these tanks then your supply-lines get cut-off during the next mission. If you lose your supply-lines you don't get any more fuel or weapons.

"This is a much more in-depth way of looking at a military simulation than simply buzzing about shooting up some targets and completing a mission," Louis believes.

Tank, a simulation of the American M1A1 Abrams tank, had the first components of EBS, but Spectrum HoloByte made so many enhancements to the EBS engine that Louie has decided to do an upgrade of Tank, appropriately titled Tank Mark II. This will support the new EBS and should be available later this year.

Future games in the EBS series will include simulations of the Apache AH-64 assault helicopter and possibly the F-15 Eagle and F-117A Stealth Fighter

### **READY FOR TAKE-OFF**

Here is a brief run-down of five flight-sims on the runway. . .

### **AVENGER A-10**

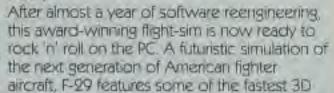
Spectrum HoloByte/Mirrorsoft
PC (Winter), Amiga (TBA), ST (TBA)
The F-16 and A-10 combat planes seem to
have become partners in air/ground attack.
Little wonder then, that the next flight
simulation from Spectrum HoloByte is going to
be based around the tankbusting 'Warthog'.
Avenger A-10 will be the second EBS title and



includes all the features found in Falcon Mark II such as 3D contoured terrain and multi-player link-up. The A-10 proved to be a top tank killer during the Gulf War thanks to its devastating 30mm seven-barrel cannon. Two Warthog pilots set a record on February 95 when they destroyed 93 Iraqi tanks in a single day.

### F-29 RETALIATOR

PC (Next Month), Amiga (Out Now), ST (Out Now)



graphics yet seen in a computer game with aerial combat, strategic bombings and interactive ground-based battles. The latest adaption includes improved flight modelling and extra bitmap 'intro' screens for added spice. The guys at Digital image Design are now thinking about doing a follow-up, but they have to finish their Epic space combat sim first. This should be here in the autumn.



Microprose PC (Winter), Amiga (Under Consideration), ST (Under Consideration)

The undoubted 'star' of the Gulf War is coming to a computer screen near you later this year. Thanks to its strange radar-



evading shape and supersmart weapons, the F-117A was used to strike 95 per cent of the primary targets in Baghdad. American Air Force Lt. General Charles Homer said the Stealth Fighter exceeded his expectations of how many targets it could destroy with limited sorbes. Each F-117A costs a mere \$106 million. The forthcoming MicroProse simulation features nine different worlds (including Iraq, Northern Japan, Columbia and Panama); advanced enemy artificial intelligence, sprite explosions and a graduated horizon for greater realism.

### **BIRDS OF PREY**

Argonaut Software/Electronic Arts
PC (Winter), Amiga (Soon), ST (TBA)
The development of Birds Of Prey has taken a
very long time, three-and-a-half years to be
precise. This isn't very surprisingly when you
consider the game accurately simulates over 40
modern-day aircraft from the Stealth Fighter and
Space Shuttle to MiG-29 and 747 Jumbo Jet.

Argonaut Software is trying to combine the best of flight-simulation and dogfighting/ground attack action. Project Leader Chris Humphries believes it's very nice to have absolutely 100 per cent realistic flight coupled with superfast polygon 3Dgraphics. See if The One agrees with him when we review Birds Of Prey in a future. issue...

### **PLANETSIDE**

Psygnosis
PC CD-ROM (Early 1992), CDTV (Early 1992),
Potentially the most far-reaching and groundbreaking flight-simulation featured here,
Planetside (working title) is the culmination of
Psygnosis' experimental work with CD-based
games. The photorealistic images (using fractal
and ray-traced graphics) in the current



demonstration running on CDTV look more like a movie than a computer game. In fact, Planetside is one of the first proper 'Interactive movies' to appear on the scene. "We're more likely to make a good interactive product than say Warner Bros or Columbia," says Psygnosis co-founder lan Hetherington. Even the flow of the game feels more like a film – with close-up and long-shots of the non-stop action.



### Psygnosis and their Molecule Madness

Against the clock, you use your chemical tendencies to build molecules out of atoms provided.

And don't be surprised if the very atom you don't need will be the one you're given to use next . . . Pray for a Joker Atom!

If you don't look like a mad scientist now, you will by the time you've tackled ATOMINO!

Up and Atom!

Screen Shots from the Amiga Version

PSYGNOSIS, FREEPOST, LIVERPOOL L3 3AB, UNITED KINGDOM



### NOTHING BUT THE BEST

Institute of Technology and the Berkeley To exchange of research attons, Hivachi started HIVIPS Firugiams) back In 1975 Euch Vear same 30 the Central Research have various they include HIMPETSITY ham other HIVIRE Contact Yutahas Kuwanara Ollica, Central FO Box 2 fell thora that The One sem

## What is Hitachi up to? Rik Haynes takes a tour of its labs to see what the future holds. HITACHI HITACHI

Walk into any high-street shop today and you'll see gadgets and gizmos thought impossible just 20 years ago. Video cameras that fit in your hand, cheap microwave ovens to 'nuke' food into submission and even washing machines with silicon brains to sort out those wash-day blues.

But how do the technologists actually devise these marvellous toys? And more importantly, what are these techno-pioneers planning for the next 20 years?

Hitachi is probably the best firm to ask. The talented scientists at this often overlooked Japanese electronics company are exploring and expanding the edge. "Creating new basic technologies for the coming 10 to 20 years," as Hitachi founder Namihei Odaira once put it.

One of the largest manufacturers of electrical and electronics equipment in the world, Hitachi never overlooks a potential wonder widget. Whether it be a home appliance or heavy industrial system — and its range of more than 20,000 products prove this point.

This obviously isn't a business for the faint-hearted or near-sighted. While our Government is threatening to slash the funding of new science projects, Hitachi spends \$2.7 billion on research and development. Not bad, especially when you consider that the firm was established in 1910 as an electrical repair shop for a copper mining company. Hitachi is now the ninth largest corporation in the world with total consolidated sales of \$45 billion and over 290,000 employees in 34 countries.

As the Second World War destroyed his country, Odaira strongly felt that: "A private company should have a laboratory with the capability to work on goals set for the future."

This was his motivation in establishing the company laboratories. Hitachi now has a total of nine corporate research laboratories, including facilities in Tokyo, San Francisco, Cambridge, Dublin and a design group in Dusseldorf, West Germany.

### VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

In the decades since the birth of television, the progress of visual technology has been nothing short of spectacular. The last 30 years have witnessed the development of a long succession of products that made full use of the latest electronics of their day.

After achieving mass-market success in the 1950s, black and-white TV began to give way to coldurin the late 1950s. And, since then, we've been introduced to the video cassette renorder, the video camera, the video taserdisc player and the LCD TV.

progress at an even faster page. "We can look forward to higher resolution, higher picture quality and screens which are larger and minner than any available today," predicts the company spokesperson. This being the trand of the times, I track its striving to develop the home electronics products or temorrow. Products which integrate the takest technology from a variety of fields, including electronics line machinery and software."

### LEVITATING CAR

Researchers at Hitachi have recently developed a Meissner levitated linear motor car model through utilisation of a high-tech superconductor. Composed mainly of a thallium-based TI-Ca-Ba-Cu-O superconductor, the car is levitated above a permanent magnetic track due to the 'Meissner effects' and driven along the track by a linear motor.

In plain English, the boffins at Hitachi are working on a car that iteals in mid-air! Don't sell your XR3I just yet though, this baby is still firmly in the experimental stage for the moment.





### TET-LCD

High demand ray output has named displays in handheld video game consules carroot descriptions computers and TVs prompter. I frache to devise a 10.3" high resolution TVT LCG (thin Film Transmort Liquid Crystal Display). This allegand considerings share gaving and capable of children output to the least of pleudical power.

machine TET-CuD is a (1720 x 3) x 730-pixer display with right rest levels and 51 cultures plus a contrast ratio of more than 100 for race or viewing. Contrast problems have plagued a CDs sings their triginal conception, hopefully all the longs have been ironed out with this latest innovation.



### ARTIFICIAL BRAIN

Perhaps the most ambitious, and far-reaching, project currently being played with in the labs of Hitachi is the three-dimensional neural network or 'artificial brain'. In an attempt to explain the computation principles of the brain, Hitachi has developed two original techniques for nerve cell culture: the arranged placement of neurons onto a culture plate and control over the direction of neurite growth.

The study was carried out in collaboration with Dr Jun Fukuda of the Department of Physiology at the University of Tokyo, School of Medicine. If the sci-fi writers are to be believed, in the coming decades a new form of artificial lifeform could be created in the labs of companies like Hitachi. It certainly makes you think.



### CD2

Hitachi's CD2 is a personal and interactive multimedia tool for entertainment, business and education applications. The basic function of this techno-toy is to enable the presentation of audio-visual databases recorded on compact discs, which can contain more than a thousand pages of full-colour natural pictures and accompanying CD-quality sound.

With a couple of discs, you could literally have the world in your grasp. A portable unit designed for viewing data from special compact discs, the CD2 combines a CD-ROM drive, 5" colour LCD screen and 16-bit microprocessor. It is 70mm in height, has an A4-size footprint and runs on batteries for portable operation.

Hitachi has equipped the CD2 with an LCD screen that relies on TFT (Thin Film Transistor) technology to achieve a high-quality full-colour picture: "GD2 employs a user-friendly interface that allows operators to forget that they are dealing with a powerful

computer," reveals Hitachi.

After all, sufferers of technophobia would rather work on a deck which looks like a TV hooked up to a compact disc player than a highend computer. For wire-heads among you, the CD2 uses CD-ROM/XA discs which can store 2,000 full-colour compressed VGA images or 16 hours of audio, or a lesser combination of both.



The search for human talent goes far beyond the boundaries of downtown Tokyo. Hitachi runs a special programme to encourage researchers from foreign countries and other companies. Industrial spies need not apply.

Almost half a century has passed since the Hitachi Central Research Laboratory was created in 1942. While Japanese soldiers were patrolling the steamy jungles of Malaysia, Hitachi was busy planning the future.

"The next century is expected to herald a culture of highly sophisticated, individualised information. Electronics technology is envisaged as bringing about prosperity in personal life. Such technology will be incorporated into human-friendly systems, and multimedia communications network technology enabling communication with anyone, at any place and at any time. The driving forces behind the development of this technology will be you and us," as one company spokesman puts it.

Big risks reap bigger rewards. Anything is possible. From ultrafast processors and mega-memory chips to the next generation of TV systems and laptop VCRs. Some of the more exotic projects currently being developed in Hitachi's labs border on pure science fiction: computers which think for themselves, ultrasonic cancer treatments and walking robots. Remember Luke Skywalker's landspeeder in Star Wars? Hitachi seemingly does, because it's also working on a levitating car.

"A lot of people who see the film will experience that kind of future."

Ridley Scott, director of Blade Runner

### LAPTOP VCR

Luckily though, Hitachi isn't just working on 21st Century cyber-gear even today you can go into your local high-street dealer and pick-up a neat piece of the company's consumer electronics.

The Lapwatch is the world's first multi-system portable TV and VCR combining a 5" colour TFT-LCD, 20-channel television tuner, full-sized multi-system VCR that plays VHS cassettes of any format. The deck is compatible with PAL, ATSC and SECAM broadcast systems so you can use it in Europe, America and Japan. You even get special magnetic shielding for a clearer reception.

Hitachi describes the Lapwatch as a "creative fusion of advanced technologies to make your fellow commuters envious on your train journey to and from the office." Innovation isn't cheap though. Lapwatch will set you back a hefty £1,300, and that doesn't include the wallet-busting amount of cash you'll spend on batteries to feed it.



"Scientific technology has determined the progress of our civilisation and created unlimited possibilities for the future," says Katsushige Mita, President of Hitachi. "It is the means to make humanity's dreams come true. Now it has become vital to ensure that our technological innovations are in harmony with nature."

Mita is not riding the new wave of

'green' perfection. Hitachi was environmentally aware 50 years ago – apparently, work crews were instructed to spare living trees wherever possible when constructing the first lab in Kokubunji, central Japan.

"Our founder built Hitachi with the belief that the company should serve society through technology," offers Mita. "Hitachi innovates to improve and enrich the lives of individuals and societies. We hope that technology will foster the creation of a global community."

Space really could be the final frontier. Although the ultimate challenge is inner rather than outer space. Nanotechnology sounds crazy: futuristic microscopic-machines the size of atoms cut your hair and clean your teeth — and you won't even notice them doing it! One thing is certain, Hitachi will probably be there with patents pending. It's already been responsible for a 80,000 of them.

History is for the taking. Hitachi is simply making sure it gets a huge chunk of tomorrow. The company philosophy goes something along the lines of 'if you've got the technology, you've got the future'. So, with this in mind, let's take a look at some of the innovations currently under wraps at Hitachi's HQ...

HDTY

In recent years, many efforts have been made by manufacturers, research institutes and broadcasters to develop the next generation television broadcasting system with photorealistic picture quality and a 'cinemascope' display.

Hilachi has been locusing on the research and development of HDTV (High Definition Television) devices, including cameras, monitors, receivers and video tape recorders for both professional and home use. The resulting domestic 1/2" high definition video cassette recorder features a recording time of more than two hours for baseband HDTV signals and utilises compact size cassette and Matai Particle (MP) tape.

So why isn't HDTV in Dixons yet? Japanese. American and European visionaries have been squabbling for nearly five years over which HDTV system to adopt. Replacing the current broadcast and domestic TV-systems will create a market worth billions of dollars and everybody wants their slice of the cherry pie. World Cup Italia '90 was recorded in Japanese HD-format, so I know which system I'm rooting for!



"This is an age of wonder.
We inhabit the
dreamscape of our
fathers, surrounded by the
fruit of their innovation.
The technological
achievements of modern
society are the realisation
of the human spirit of

curiosity and inquiry.

Modern scientific
technology has improved
the way people live in
thousands of dramatic
ways. Now the central
issue of our time is to
harness technology for
the good of people and
the good of the planet.
Hitachi is committed to
innovation that will make
the world a better place."

A Hitachi Spokesperson

THINKING MACHINES

The invention of the alectronic computer ranks as one of 20th Computer rankind's prestess actionary maintains. Neural remouters, machines that can trimly for the weathers could stan a similar revolution in the years to come.

Whereas comemourary computers operate logically, neurocomputers operate along trivis that recemble human troullion. They're expectably solved to linetic-necognition problems which dely solution by troullional soproaches,

The performance of a notine computer depends on the number of serio-circults is contains. Up to the present Hilachi has succeeded in building a 1,000-neuro-circuit computer. Figure softwaresments could yield hyper-intelligent macrones which respond to and armolpsis your rescal lost like a real person.

### **WALKING ROBOT**

Soon, you could be taking a robot for a stroll instead of your pooch. A reduced-scale quadrupedal (that's four-legged to you and me) walking robotic mechanism has been developed at Hitachi's Mechanical Engineering Research Laboratory in Japan. This robot features the living creature-like capabilities of walking and stepping over obstacles.

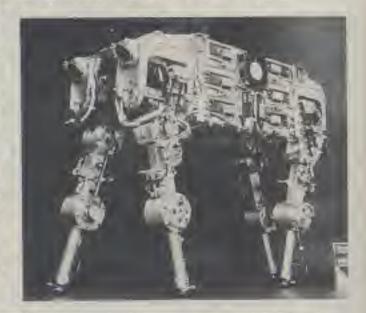
In addition, this robot is 'smart': it operates autonomously and can adapt intelligently to understructured and cluttered environments with minimal energy consumption.

A robot capable of trotting across flat ground in a way similar to that of a horse, and walking without help in environments with staircases and other physical obstacles is being developed as part of an eight-year large-scale national project coordinated by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Hitachi's control technology can be adapted to robots for use in space,

agriculture, construction, health and nuclear power facility maintenance applications to name but a few of its wide and varied possibilities.

The Japanese love robots, they can be seen in every part of their culture from factories, movies and comic books to advertisements, toys and nightclubs. According to a spokesperson, "We at Hitachi will continue to improve our established robotic technologies which we believe are indispensable for the enhancement and advancement of human society".



### VIDEO PRINTER

A product of Hitachi's advanced TDT (Thermal Dye Transfer) technology, this video printer can provide a near-photo quality picture from a video image within 50 seconds. It employs a new mechanism which minimises the time for paper transportation, colour changing and paper ejecting, plus a new thermal compensation system for faster printing with stabilised tone and colour density.

Ordinarily, thermal printing is very slow. This video printer represents the current state of the art and can be used in conjunction with Hitachi's CD2 portable CD-ROM viewer.



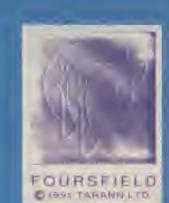






HE'LL BE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE ON YOUR AMIGA AND ST.

MAGE WORKS IRWIN HOUSE HE SOUTHWARK STREET LONDON SELOOW TEL: 072 1925 1954 FAX: 072 583 5494





his all started in my house three years ago,' says Chris, 'and there were about 25 of us then.' He stands by the pool at San Jose's Hyatt Hotel, surrounded by about 200 game freaks of all description. Another 300 or so are busy milling round the various lecture rooms, buffet tables, coffee dispensers, bars, and other conference locations. The Computer Game Developers' Conference, it seems, has come a long way...

This year it ended up as three days of non-stop gamespeak. There were lectures on optical disk game development, self publishing, graphic violence, artificial intelligence, sexual consciousness, and fantasy roleplaying – and all those took place in the first two and a half hours of the first day! In all, there were nearly 60 sessions, including an Apple sponsored dinner, a massive banquet, and some very serious drinking.

The list of software celebrities was endless, though British attendees were

conspicuous by their absence. Staggering from one buffet table to another, you could bump into EA boss Trip Hawkins, Chris 'Wing Commander' Roberts, Steve 'Leather Goddesses' Meretzky, Noah 'Indy III' Falstein, and Richard 'Lord British' Garriott - and still be sucking on the same slice of fresh pineapple.

So what did these luminaries actually DO during those three days? Let's mingle with the throng, prick our ears, and try to pick up what was going down ...

Please be seated...

Conference events were divided into lectures, panels, debates, seminars, and round tables. At least that was the theory. In practise, any lecture could suddenly turn into a debate, and some debates sounded depressingly like lectures, as the audience sat stunned into silence by some particularly esoteric bit of game theory. We name no names...

The afternoon of the first day saw Crawford and Origin's Chris Roberts battle it out in a debate entitled Good Graphics vs Good Gameplay. Crawford was there for gameplay, Roberts was rooting for graphics, and the audience were there for blood. Plenty was shed...

The debate began with Chris Roberts bravely outlining the importance of presentation. You could tell the audience were unsympathetic – despite the fact that many designers spend their time extolling their latest 3D routines, none would admit to putting anything other than gameplay first. Roberts had the air of someone discussing the principles of kosher butchery in a room full of vegetarians, and he got about as sympathetic a reception. Crawford,

who is a particularly fiery speaker, then proceeded to dazzle the audience with his defence of gameplay. Spurred on by the audience, the debate rapidly degenerated into a series of thrusts between the speakers, most of

which were either aimed at Wing Commander (supposedly all graphics, no gameplay, and huge sales) or Crawford's Guns And Butter (supposedly all gameplay, no graphics, and no sales). Finally, Roberts understandably changed tack before the storm and began to argue the opposite case, or even both cases at once. This led to total confusion, lots of noise, and a vote which naturally reassured everyone that gameplay was top hole and don't you dare suggest otherwise.

The first day also saw a session on Virtual Reality, with Eric Gullichsen of Sense8 and Scott Fisher (previously of NASA's Virtual Environment Workstation project) amongst the speakers. Fisher gave a hilarious slide show of the history of VR gadgets,

Rob Fulop was the man behind the Atari Missile Command and Night Driver cartridges and, later, Demon Attack and Cosmic Ark, He's specifically shot for interaction and now runs a company called Interactive Productions. In one of their latest titles, developed for CDI, Fulop used live actors and voice overs to produce Hotseat - a family game in which players have to guess how their friends would respond to awkward social dilemmas.

Hotseat. Enter the screen host who calls players by their names and keeps the action rolling

perhaps the first producer in the world to develop movies

Chris 'Balance of Power' Crawford gathers together hundreds of programmers and game designers each year to debate the state of the art. Steve Cooke tagged along...



 OFFER A MINT MAKE AN EXCUSE ····KISS HER

The game hosts present the players with dilemmas. In this case, would you kiss a girl who had (in Fulop's immortal phrase) 'Horsemen of the Apocalypse breath'?



Rob Fulop, developer of over 100 multimedia products, fluent in Hungarian, and single...



### THER NOW...



The Hotseat player secretly enters his decision, while his friends try to predict what he would do...



Looks like she's accepted a mint. Thank heavens for that!

'The deeper power of telepresence awaits below the waterline. One can imagine a transformation spawned by sensory immersion, like the Tokyo night, where the burning sky collapses in upon its content, driving meaning down into a realm that is entirely unsuspected, intimate, and vast...'

Brenda Laurel, Telepresence Research, cyberspace pioneer..

show of the history of VR gadgets, culminating in a giant helmet, looking like a primitive sea urchin, which kept the unfortunate user aware of sensory events outside his field of view. It did this by (I kid you not) physically jabbing one of its spines onto its victim's scalp. The location of the jab indicated the threat direction, alerting the user to, say, an incoming

missile from behind. Ouch! Followed, in all probability, by

bang!

Eric Gullichsen showed off Sense8's VR system running on a PC. This system, called WorldToolKit, operates rather like a Rolls Royce version of Incentive's 3D Construction Kit, accepting world geometries from programs like AutoCAD and then using Intel's powerful DVI graphics processors to apply scalable textures to objects,

manipulate them, and generate a stereoscopic display for a headset, all in real time. Neat, but around

£10,000.

On the second day, Brian Moriarty gave an exquisite talk about The Birth of a Medium. Once responsible for titles like Wishbringer or (more recently) Loom, Brian has now moved over into educational software at Lucasfilm and has been researching the early days of cinema. He showed the audience clips from some of the first movies ever made, and reminded us that film, like video games, was once a volatile niche medium that no-one ever believed would develop into an art form. There's hope for us yet...

Or is there? Chris Crawford took the stage again on the second day with an intriguing talk entitled The

Evolution of Taste. He got his audience's attention immediately by using some very long words that none of them understood, to wit the catchphrase 'Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny'. However, Chris, being a very able speaker, soon twisted this incomprehension into a clear, if rather disturbing, vision. 'I am very worried,' he confessed, '...about the future of our industry.'

His unease comes from the way the gamesplayer's taste for gaming experience games a matured. Using candy, comics, and cartoons as examples, he showed how in other areas people's taste

Chris Crawford, creator of thirteen games and editor of The Journal of Computer Game Design.

slowly broadened to include diverse forms of (in this case) food, literature, and film/TV. But for the computer gamer, no such development was possible, since the majority of video games were still at the

since the majority of video games were still at the candy stage of stylistic evolution. People could therefore grow out of the gamesworld faster than it could evolve and offer them more diverse entertainment, Ontogeny - the development of the individual recapitulates (mirrors) phylogeny - the development of the species. But in the video games business, the development of the species has been so brief and stunted that there is not enough background for the individual to draw on in the development of his own likes and dislikes. Fed on a constant diet of limited variety, he soon sickens and switches the TV back on.

> A bleak scenario, and a clear message from the man behind the Computer Game Developers' Conference that we had better start developing and stop cloning.



### A LOAD OF BULLFROG

Peter Molyneux and the guys at Bullfrog originally developed boring 'serious software' such as databases and CAD packages for the Amiga. In fact, the Guildfordbased company went under the name of Taurus back in those dark days.

Strangely, things didn't work out too well, so Molyneux visited Telecomsoft in London, lied about his games programming skills and picked up the contract to convert Druid onto the Amiga and ST, Bullfrog was thus born.

The company's next project was an original game for Electronic Arts, Fusion, a hybrid shoot em up. Unfortunately, this was a flop. Then, in a rather smart move, Molyneux bought some Lego bricks and the boys finally had a chance to have some fun. The rest, as they say, is history.

Bullfrog achieved critical acclaim with Populous in 1989 and Powermonger a year later. Even Molyneux has lost count of the number of awards these top titles have picked up in the last two years. Apparently, lapanese gamesters enjoyed Populous so much that they now listen to a special audio-CD filled with music and sound effects from the game!

Not content with having a hand in the design of one of the all-time-greats of computer games, this man also knows the nation's breakfast habits. All of this and more as Rik Haynes goes One On One with...

### PETER MOLYNEUX

How did Populous come about?

When we formed Bullfrog, the idea was that we'd come up with types of game that hadn't been made before, not to copy other people's ideas. That's really why we started to design Populous - it was something a little bit different. The game concept came about when we were messing around with Lego - as one does in the daily course of life. We built this landscape, rather like a Populous landscape, and we transferred it over to the computer. The game then built up on that. We worked out the basic gameplay in a couple of weeks using the Lego. It was the only way we could simulate the game. That's why the landscape was so bulky, because it was a simulation of the Lego itself. In fact, pieces of the stuff are still lying around the office, although we haven't used it for Populous 2... yet. By the way, I don't agree with all this new Lego with smiley faces printed on it - it destroys creativity.

And what about Powermonger?
This came about as a result of

Populous. We realised that the view of you standing on a hilltop looking down on the little people really hadn't been exploited by anybody else. We wanted to do another view where there were just little people although not necessary isometric or looking like Populous - and make the game more strategic. Basically, Powermonger was inspired by the view in Populous. It was also inspired by the fact that if you watch someone play Populous they will always talk to the people. Also, it's easier to simulate something big than it is to simulate something small. For example, in the simulation of a world you can make sweeping generalisations, but simulating one person doing one thing is incredibly hard. You have to worry about them blowing their nose or scratching their leg. As Bullfrog is getting better and better at programming, we're getting more and more detailed, more and more personal. I suppose, eventually, we'll simulate a single person. At the moment we're only on country level. I think the next stage will be town level - but I don't mean Sim City. Some sort of town simulation getting down to that personal level so you'll

see people doing more things.

Did you ever expect Populous to become so successful?

We thought people would be interested in Populous because of its weirdness. We thought that people would just say 'that's really weird' and move on. We had no idea whatsoever that it would be as successful as it has been. Our first inkling started when a journalist came down here. We tided up the office especially and we were really nervous. He was fairly cool, so I turned around to him in the pub during lunch and asked him, with trembling lips, 'what do you think of Populous?' 1 expected him to say it was, well, okay, but he said it was one of the best games he'd ever played. I nearly fell off my chair, I couldn't believe one of the megastar

journalists had enjoyed playing Populous so much. The funny thing is, we came back to the office and he asked us if he could have another go. Obviously the folks at Electronic Arts had a much better feeling for it because they'd done so many games before.

Were you more confident about Powermonger?

I was really nervous about Powermonger actually, mostly because it was under such timepressure. It was a very big project to undertake - especially as we were



also overseeing the conversions of Populous. People don't realise Populous has gone onto so many different formats, but so far there's been 15 to be precise. We have to put a little bit of time into each one-technical assistance and mundane things such as sending out the right sprite files and code, So, during Powermonger, we also supported the Populous conversions and the Promised Lands data disks - oh, and we programmed Flood as well. Ideally I would have liked to work a little bit more on the gameplay in

Powermonger. I think the gameplay needed to be a bit more interactive, erm, you need a little bit more to do. It appeals to a lot of people who like very, very high strategic games, but it needed that extra element that would appeal to everybody and it didn't really have that, I shouldn't really be saying this, I should be hyping everything we do.

Are there any plans to put Populous into a coin-op?

Sort of. A long time ago there was a lot of talk about putting Populous onto SNK's Neo-Geo arcade game system. I couldn't see how it would work, but with the credit card system you could slap your card into the machine, play Populous for 20 minutes, then take you credit card out. You could go back at any time and resume play exactly where you left it. But Populous really doesn't lend itself to the arcades, not in the way that something like Lemmings would.

Why exactly do you think Populous and Powermonger were so popular? If I knew the answer to that question then I'd feel wonderfully happy and I'd sell the idea to several companies and make millions and millions of pounds. I can't put my finger on it exactly, it's something to do with them being a little bit different from all the other games. Secondly, I think it's to do with them being more personal than most games. You see these little men walking around and so you feel as if you're in control of something which is big and massive. The megalomaniac-type aspect. I think everybody wants to conquer and destroy everything. Most games are based on winning, conquering or killing. All those three elements mixed together in a certain way make games such as Populous into the successes they are. It appeals to just the right element in each person.

What's going to be new in the sequel to Populous?

We're doing an awful lot. It's a complete and total rewrite... we're not even looking at the original code. When we wrote Populous, we barely knew how to put a sprite onto the screen, now, we're concentrating on producing lots and lots of effects. For example, where before you just had earthquakes, volcanoes and swamps, you will now have 40 effects ranging from tidal waves, plague and pestilence to tornadoes and whirlpools. You gradually get access to all of these effects as you play each level. It's almost like a role-playing came in that respect. As you get better as a God, your ability to cause havoc or good gets better. At least, that's our objective to start off with that might change as we develop it up. That's what happened in the original Populous. At the moment it's set in Ancient Greece because of the simple architectural style. It should really look visually stunning

with the buildings, it's hard to describe in words. In essence, Populous 2 will play more or less the same as the first game, we're just at the stage to start working on the gameplay. I want to get the feel right. At the moment, it plays incredibly quickly: you can cover the landscape with buildings within two minutes, so that's going to have to be slowed down. We're hoping to do lots on the sound side, that's really important, but we're having a real problem finding anybody that's able to do that. None of us here are musicians. We're looking for someone with the talent to implement our ideas, We're hoping to do some wacky things with the sound that have never been done before. Lot's of disaster-ridden sounds and lots of people sounds. As people do things and move around there are really context-sensitive sounds to inform you on the game. For example, if one of the little people see's an enemy that's offscreen he might shout 'Charge'. You'll hear this little squeaky 'Charge' and realise there are some enemies coming across the hill. The little people will actually inform the gamesplayer that there is something they should be looking for instead of just being an audio reaction to what's just happened.

Is there going to be a Powermonger 2?

There are no plans. I don't like getting hung-up on sequels. In the end you end-up doing more sequels than you do original games. We've got so many games ideas that we've sketched out that I'd rather look to producing one of those. I wanted to do Populous 2 because there was so much left out in the first game due to a lack of memory. We know a lot more now.

Are you developing any of these other games?

We're working on two new projects, which we're calling Bob and Creation. These are just working titles, Creation was the original title for Populous, but I'm not saying that Creation is anything like Populous. It's not being designed on Lego, but we are using another physical medium to design stuff - I'm not going to say what because this would give you a clue as to what the game is about. Bob has got vague similarities to what we've done before. It's an action strategy game whatever that is! Graphically, I think Bob is the most exciting game I've seen in a long time - and I'm not hyping you up. It's called Bob because 'B' 'O' 'B' is very easy to type on the keyboard. I would think Bob will be finished round about the end of the year and Creation should be sometime early next year.

Do you still play games?

Of course. I'm just having a look at Eye Of The Behelder on the PC, but I'm not sure if I want to waste my time on that as it's a bit too like Dungeon Master. Also, I've finished one level of Captive, erm... and I'm not going to comment too much on Genghis Khan. These are really taking up my time at the moment. I like games that are good value for money. That is one of the criteria when we design games, if you pay £25 for a game you should get 25 hours worth of enjoyment out of it. I know this is going to sound really naff, but I have been playing quite a lot of the original Populous.

How do you see games evolving?

The simulation side will continue taking off as people start to program better and better. It's now getting into the realm of things like SimEarth. The amount of research you have to do for a game like SimEarth is absolutely enormous, Whether or not there was a viable game at the end of it - that's up to you to decide. It shows there's a lot of scope for simulations. They do push the industry along because they appeal to more and more different types of people rather than just a kid who wants to just zap an alien. But we can't afford to get too conceited about simulations, we must always remember that they've got to be fun to play. It's a very subtle blend of creating games and creating simulations for simulation sake. Games are going to get more and more detailed and there are going to be less and less software companies and development houses. Games will soon take five years to write. I'd like Bullfrog to branch out to other media like board games - 95 per cent of the board games I play are crap. I'd also like to look into multimedia but I want to do something special with it.

What sort of gadgets do you think will be on-sale in, say, the first decade of the 21st century?

We're going to have to get rid of all forms of joysticks and keyboards. It must be theoretically possible to have direct link to bypass the audiovisual outside world type thing of the human brain. If you could do that, it would be absolutely outstanding. Virtual Reality is just a gludge method of fooling the body. I'm talking about directly interfacing up to your mind - completely bypassing your eyes, ears and hands - probably by neural impulses. You could just have an electronic sensor at the back of your neck. But that's probably not in the early part of the 21st century. You going to see things like speech recognition which I think is going to be great - it will make computers seem much more friendly. You're going to have paper-thin TV screens. You'll also have nicotine- and smokefree cigarettes, they'll actually be good for you, so the armchair ashtray will be a smash hit.

Describe Bullitog in a single sentence.

Disorganised but keen.

### MOLYNEUX ON MOLYNEUX

Age: 31 Born: Beckingham, Earliest Memory: Hitting my pregnant mother on the head with a ball, Parents: My father worked for an oil company and between the time when I was nine and fourteen, my mother owned a toy-shop Now that sounds like any kid's dream, but I can tell you it was terrible. At Christmas I didn't get the really nice presents, I got the presents that either didn't sell or had something slightly wrong with them. Perhaps that helps explain my skill at creating games. Qualifications: A degree in Computer Science from Southampton University. Previous Jobs: Raspberry picker, kitchen porter at a Torquay holiday. camp, marking examination papers and analysing family food trends (by the way, did you know that over a quarter of a million people in Britain have custord for breakfast every week?). Fayourite Movie: A 1930s' French black and white version of Benuty And The Heist, because visually it's the most stunning film ever created. It's also one of the saddest Favourite Book: The Magic Far Away Tree by Enid Blyton because it was such a wacky idea. Favourite Year: 1989, because it was a really nice summer, there wasn't any pressure at work and my circle of friends were so compatible. Most Treasured Possession: A glass bottle that I found at a sort of junk market for 50p. Future predictions for your favourile TV soap (Prisoner -Cell Block H ): 1 think that Bea, the most vicious woman there, will actually become Governor of the prison one day. Greatest Achievement: Populous, well, Bullfrog Without a doubt.

FEATURE

he CDTV is not a computer in the conventional sense. It is a completely new product, with new channels of distribution and a new

market. It has not been designed to appeal to traditional personal computer owners, but to a far broader user base. It could be destined to become as popular a consumer electronics product as the video recorder or hi-fi. That these black and white facts have not yet been fully taken on board by many people both within and outside the computer industry, including some supposedly well-informed journalists, is evident from the confused picture of the machine that has been emerging from the computer press over recent months.

So what exactly is the CDTV?

Put simply it is the result of a marriage between state-of-the-art laserdisc technology and tried and tested microcomputer technology. It is a machine that has all the processing power of an Amiga combined with a storage capacity large enough to hold the Encyclopaedia Brittanica. This makes it an ideal tool for any application that necessitates the storage of a colossal amount of data while making access and crossreferencing as easy as possible. The CDTV is the first machine to bring this power within reach of the general public.

### What does it look like?

The machine is about the same size and shape as a video recorder, with a slot in which CDs are loaded, and a front panel with a simple LED display and a few function buttons. Unlike a conventional computer there is no keyboard, the user interacts with the CDTV via an infra-red remote controller that looks like a cross between a standard CD controller and a console joypad. Output is through a TV or colour monitor and, optionally, a hi-fi or other external amplifier.

### How does it work?

At the heart of the CDTV is an Amiga computer with one Megabyte of RAM and a further two Kilobytes of battery-

THE SOFTWARE FACTOR

backed RAM which is used to store the system set-up, time and date, and so on. Also on-board is 512K of ROM which contains the standard Amiga Kickstart 1.3 operating system and a File System Handler that conforms to an International Standard for CD devices, thus ensuring that the CDTV maintains maximum compatibility with commercial CD products that may not be specifically designed for the CDTV.

Instead of a floppy disk drive the CDTV has a front-loading CD drive. Unlike the CD player you may have at home it is not possible to load the CD directly into the drive, instead it fits into a plastic holder which is then led into the iront of the CDTV. Commodore is still to decide whether or not to encourage the sale of software already fitted into holders.

The CD can hold any combination of graphics (either conventional Amiga generated pictures or digitised photographs and diagrams), speech and sound (digitised or digitally recorded CD quality), and controlling software. The data capacity of one disk is a stunning 550 Megabytes (that's roughly equivalent to 700 Amiga floppy disks)!

The data is accessed in exactly the same way your conventional CD player works, by using a laser to read the pits burned into the surface of the disk. Unfortunately this is where the major drawback of existing CD technology becomes apparent. The access and read times for CD are much slower than those for floppy disks and seem interminably slow compared to hard disk speeds. On the pre-production model we saw, most wait times were bearable and became tedious only on a couple of occasions. Commodore is confident that it will have drastically improved read speeds by the time the machine is launched

### What about graphics and sound?

Graphics resolution is identical to the standard Amiga, with the same range of 4,096 colours, and one Megabyte of Video RAM. The sound generation facilities are also identical to the Amiga, but the CDTV also has the capability to output digitally recorded CD quality sound. The capacity of the CD to store sound depends on the rate it was sampled at. There is a necessary trade-off between quantity and quality For instance you can store about an hours worth of CD quality sound (sampled at 44 KHz), and about 14 hours of the worst quality sound (sampled at 6 KHz).

Once the CD is loaded the application starts automatically. Depending on what sort of software you are running, all further interaction with the application is via the remotecontrol pad. All of the software we saw was self-explanatory in this respect.

If has been the most machine of the decade but probably he most missinderstood. aurence Scotford takes a ong hard look at mmodore's CDTV and empts to sort out the lents from the fiction. WAXING LYRICAL Another

application for the CDTV is CD+G. 'Whal's CD+G when it's al home?' you might well ask. Compact Disc. plus Graphics is the answer Pul a CD+G disc into the machine and not only do you get a whole album of CD quality sound. your monitor displays lyrics and sultable

images al the

same time!

FEATURE



luding text, diagrams, digitised photographs, and sounds, and it is simple to use, even for children at Primary school. There are few subjects that would not benefit from use of the CDTV is some capacity, and now that the National Curriculum is in force it is an easy matter to create educational databases that every school can use.

In higher education the CDTV becomes a powerful research tool Polytechnic and University students will have access to expert systems and databases which they can crossreference to check up on their own

(īii) CONSUMERS - are the final market, and the most important. The number of uses for the CDTV in the home ranges from an early learning aid for young children, through an entertainment platform for playing sophisticated games to a database unit covering such subjects as gardening and cookery

### What is the software like?

There are currently 46 official titles in development, and at least 25 of these are expected to be ready in time for the launch. They cover home reference, childrens entertainment and education, leisure, and games. Individual titles range from The King James Bible to Advanced Military Systems. from an interactive version of Cinderella to a Cookbook.

### GAMES GALORE!

The CDTV is an Ideal games platform in many ways (it's disk access speed being the only disadvantage). Huge compilations of existing Amiga games are likely to be quite a popular way forward in the early months. More interesting will be the appearance of either new games or redeveloped existing games that make use of the machines colossal storage capacity. The possibilities for strategy and adventure games in particular are very exciling.

Games currently in development for the CDTV are:

Airwave Adventure - The Case of the Cautious Condor - Tiger Media Battle Chess - Interplay Classic Board Games

Software Defender of the Crown

Cinemaware Dominion - Dominion

Excalibur - Virgin Mastertronic

Falcon - Spectrum Holobyte

Future Wars - Interplay Many Roads to Murder - Vent

Murder Anyone? - Vent Pacmania - Domark

Sim City - Maxis

Sherlock Homes, Consulting Detec-

tive - Icon Simulations

Snoopy - The Edge Space Quest III - Sierra On-Line

Thexder - Sierra On-Line

Xenon II - Mirrorsoll

### Who will use it?

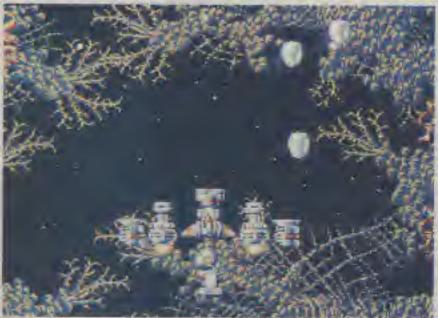
Commodore see the CDTV as catering to three main markets, each of which will want to use it in completely different ways:

(i) BUSINESSES - will find use for it as a training tool. The simple user interface will allow employees to easily explore databases covering all aspects of the company they work for. It will be a simple matter for them to highlight quickly the areas they are weak on while skipping past those they are already familiar with

The CDTV also makes an ideal Point of Information terminal. Set up so that customers can access them, one or more CDTVs can hold a variety of

information on the company's activilies and services. Ultimately we may see customers with CDTVs at home using them via a modem as a direct link to the companies they are dealing with. Imagine, for instance, having a calalogue on disk. This could hold price and size information as well as several static colour pictures of each item. Once you had made a selection it would be a simple matter to transmit your order down the phone-lines direct to the catalogue company.

(ii) EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISH-MENTS - will find hundreds of uses for the CDTV, which is an ideal teaching medium. It can hold huge amounts of easily cross-referenced data inc-



Xenon II is one of the first games to get the CDTV treatment more graphics, better sound - no doubt there will be many

FEATURE

We looked at five of the titles in development:

### A Bun For Barney

(Multimedia Corp)

An interactive story for young children. It tells the story of how Barney the Bear sets out to enjoy a quiet lunch (his load currant bun), but ends up encountering lots of other creatures. The story has animated illustrations and the text is shown on screen in large easily readable type with narration by Tom Baker. Children interact with the story via a wand which can be moved around the screen to point at objects and set off additional animation. The wand is also used to turn the page when the child is ready.

### Dr. Wellman, Family Medical Advisor

(Digita)

An example of the sort of home database we can expect to see forming a substantial part of the available software for the CDTV. A wide range of medical topics can be accessed providing information on everything from vaccinations required before travelling to certain countries to alternative medicine most entries have illustrations and spoken commentary.

### The American Heritage Encyclopedic Dictionery

(Michies)
A poverial revience wo his track
analyticoaecilo information rolla white
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resion. All by the engres are recon-

### Time Table of Science & Innovation (Xiphias)

m iring it easy to backitack

An educational/reference tool which holds a comprehensive range of information on Science and Technology from the beginning of recorded history up to the present day. Information is presented both visually and aurally, and, once again, the entries are extensively cross-referenced.

### World Vista Atlas

(Applied Optical Media)

Another superbie cample of the power of the CDTV. Not only are maps of all the countries in the world stored on the disk, you can also reference maps of most of the major othes. Once you have accessed a particular country you can call up digitised colour photographs showing examples of the landscape examples of music, and political geographical, and social details world Vista Atlas is going to be an extremely useful educational tool

### What next?

As impressive as the existing CDTV is, there's more to come. One of the terms that's been bandled about over recent months is Full MotionVideo (FMV). The trouble is, not a lot of people know what it means. Full Motion Video is the ability to display complete frames of video data at the correct rate (50 frames per second on a PAL system). FMV is not currently available on the CDTV. It's not available because there are two problems. One is that the hardware isn't quite up to it yet, and the other is that manufacturers of CD equipment have yet to come up with an internationally agreed standard for FMV, and individual parties, like Commodore, are understandably a little hesitant about introducing it until that agreement comes into force. Hopefully FMV should become a lot more than flash jargon in a couple of years or so.

Once you've got your basic CDTV (which you will recall looks nothing like a computer), you can plug lots of things into it to make it look like a computer. There are both Centronics (Parallel) and RS232 (Serial) interfaces for hooking up printers, and communicating with other devices. You can plug in a standard Amiga floppy disk drive (which will only be of use if the software supports it). Interestingly there is also full MIDI support, which should make for some interesting music packages; Playalongamax perhaps? What an awful prospect!

One feature you won't find on an ordinary Amiga is a smart card slot. This accepts a credit card sized magnetic device which is able to store small amounts of data permanently. This will allow the user to take information about their use of applications away from the machine. For instance you could store positions of useful entries in a database so that you could access them more quickly the next time you switched on the machine, or keep track of your score in a game or position in an adventure game.

The beauty of this system is thatyou can stop working on one CDTV and carry on from where you left off on a completely different machine by transferring the smart card

Another slot that greatly increases the potential power of the CDTV is the Intelligent Video Slot. This has been designed to accept

devices like Genlock which allows signals from the CDTV to be mixed with video signals from other sources. This opens up a whole vista of possibilities for combining video footage with text and commentary controlled by the CDTV.

If you are an Atari owner then you are obviously going to be interested in the CDTV as either an additional piece of hardware or as something that suits your needs better than your existing machine. Amiga owners, on the other hand, will be delighted to know that, Commodore is currently planning a bolt-on CD system for the standard Amiga, which will be a cheaper option for those wanting to explore multimedia. Any future CD machines from Commodore are going to be downwardly compatible with the existing machine so upgrades will not entail a change of software

### In Conclusion

The CDTV is a very powerful and exciting tool, but its success will depend largely on the availability of quality software. Currently the machine seems to be attracting a lot of interest from third party developers, and that can only be a good thing for the consumer. Commodore's problem, now that it has the machine up and running, is how to convince the general public of its worth.

"The CDTV," says Commodore's PR man Andrew Ball, "has to be perceived as something as simple as the next generation of CD player. People genuinely don't know what it is or what it is capable of. The key to its success lies in the software: every user is going to have his own little software niche."

The difficulty is in convincing consumers that the CDTV "isn't an accessory to a child's bedroom", but rather something that the whole family can use. During the first year of the machine's life demand is going to outstrip supply anyway, so this period gives Commodore an opportunity to pave the way for the mass sales that need to follow if the CDTV is not to lose its advantage as the first affordable multimedia platform.

One thing is certain. CD technology is going to continue to play an ever increasing role in home entertainment. Whether the CDTV is going to be the most successful player in that revolution remains to be seen.



The CDTV in all its glory. It may look like a common or garden CD player, but it's a hell of a lot more...

# AIMAIMAZ

The island of Alcatraz stands empty and discarded - a relic of the past. But, as night settles, the ruins of the old prison comes to life. In an ironic twist of fate, Alcatraz is now the hide out of an evil drugs cartel, led by Miguel Tardiez, its cruel and callous chief. As a crack commando you are about to undertake the most perilous and daring mission ever. Your task - penetrate the island of Alcatraz and capture Tardiez. If you fail the State Department will simply deny any knowledge of your existence. There's no such thing as a dead hero.



It's the final countdown, as HQ gives the last briefing.



Prepare with care, a simple mistake will cost you your life.



Track down Tardiez's men, as you move ever closer to the very centre of corruption.



One false move and your cover is blown.



Tardiez's men lurk on every corner:



MARI ST/STE - AMIGA - PC & BOMPATIBLES

THE PRODUCT THAT PUT THE NAME VEKTOR GRAFIX on the lips of 16-bit games players everywhere was undoubtedly Activision's impressive multi-plane flight simulator Fighter Bomber, but the company's impressive history began long before that particular game hit the shelves.

Vektor Grafix has always been very much led from the front by its owner and chief creative talent Andy Craven, a bearded, stem-eyed and strong-minded Northern programmer. It was he who guided the team through early projects such as the coinop conversions of the now-legendary Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back for Domark.

However, by the Summer of '88, with success on its doorstep and Andy Craven now spending much of his time chained to a development system, it was time that Vektor Graphics had a business manager. That man was to be John Lewis, who had previously been with Cascade Games (which went on to become Artronic).

Shortly afterwards the company won the coveted contract

to produce Fighter Bomber for Activision, for an allegedly record set of advances. Things were certainly looking up.

Unfortunately life wasn't all sunshine and roses for long. The project was hampered by delays which caused financial complications. This project caused so much frustration that when it was finally released to general acclaim, Lewis decided to call it a day.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Craven decided it was time to do a little rationalisation of resources, pull in the beit a little, curtail the world domination for a while and get down to some serious game producing.

The team's next project, Killing Cloud, a futuristic 3D action/adventure game with simulation aspects, gained the

company more critical accolades when it was released on the Image Works label. Then, as we reported back in Issue 29, its current simulation, Space Shuttle, has already caused a lot of enthusiastic noise even before its completion.

So what else is happening at Vektor's Leeds offices?

Quite a lot actually. The current workload includes XF-50, a hyper-realistic space-based flight simulator, and Death Or Glory, an across-the-eras piece that simulates everything from World War I to the Falklands.

What makes both these games interesting is the amount of artificial intelligence packed into them. Craven explains: "A long time ago we realised that the future of flight simulation was heading towards war-gaming, with more strategy and gameplay. At that time the publishers weren't too sure about this, but with the advent of Midwinter, Conflict Europe, and so on, they soon began listening."

Despite having a wealth of product in the pipeline, and like any software

developer that wants to survive the recession, Vektor has realised that computer games can't be the only outlet for the team's creativity. Perhaps more importantly they have recognised that the games and film industries are now inextricably linked

With the onset of vastly increased memory capacity
(especially with the imminent availability of affordable CDbased computing) more and more detail is becoming
possible, and computer games will have to become even
more like interactive films if they want to hold the attention of
the buying public no longer is it enough to turn a film licence
into a 2D scrolling arcade conversion lookalike. Consequently,
interactive films are one of the areas of expansion that the
Vektor crew are currently investigating.

One of its current projects, Mechwarrior II (a version of the well-known board game, Battletech), uses a new in-house

### THETHR

Vektor Grafix is widely regarded as one of the top 3D specialists in the country, but the road to fame has not been an easy one. Alastair Swinnerton relates its rags to riches story.



STAR WARS AND THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, converted from the popular Atari coin-ops, were two of Vektor Grafix's first masterpieces and a small taste of things to come.





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Fighter Bomber was the game that really put Vektor Grafix on the map.

A FLIGHT

SIMULATION THAT

FEATURED SEVERAL

PLANES and some

impressive 3D,

very detailed backgrounds. It is not such a giant step from this to the sort of realistic 3D human figures that would populate an interactive film.

Such diversification requires more than just development money though, it needs a greater understanding of potential future requirements: not all projects give an immediate payback. The carboons seen here are an example of this. Initially drawn by John Guerin, one of Vektor's three artists, they inspired Andy to commission a full-length promotional comic strip for Killing Cloud.

Another pie which Vektor has its fingers well and truly dipped into is SNASM, the popular development system which it designed in conjunction with fellow Yorkshire team Realtime Games under the 'Crossproducts' banner. This is rapidly becoming an industry standard 3D tool.

In fact, the maxim that states 'If you want something well

## LING CROWD



ARTISTS had an opportunity to show off their skills in the Killing.



ONE OF THE OBJECTS from Vektor Grafix's most recent game, Killing Cloud. The 3D routines in this game are notable for their ability to handle curves.



PRODUCED
Fighter Bomber,
Andy Craven

Andy Craven took flying lessons to give him a better idea of how aircraft really felt to fly. As this cartoon shows, he may initially have found civilian planes a little disappointing...

### S KTS HOG ONE

done, do it yourself seems to have been taken to heart by Vektor Grafix: as well as SNASM and the articulation editor, it has sprite animators, parsers and a whole host of development tricks to keep it ahead of the field in 3D.

Its newest and cleverest piece of programming wizardry is a little gadget called COCO. COCO is basically an artwork translator which takes 256-colour screens and converts them automatically to 16-colour versions, or vice versa, as well as handling a whole host of other formats. As if that weren't impressive enough it also compresses files.

Then, of course, there's Virtual Reality, the current inclustry ouzz-word, and something which Vektor is certainly not ignoring. Since it was first mooted as a games medium some

two years ago, VR has taken the public imagination by the throat. The timescale of 10 years until commercial viability is attained has been reduced drastically too.

If things keep on at this rate, the very term 'computer game' may soon need redefining. In fact this new media will be neither film, TV, video or computer game, but a brand new entertainment media, and Vektor is determined to be there when it happens.

THE VEKTOR
GRAFIX TEAM in
their Leeds
office, with
Andy Craven
third from the
left.

THE DNE

# A LUXURY

IN THIS EASY-TO DOMARK/TENGE COMPETITION

■ANCY A FAST-MOVING CAREER? Well you could be in luck, because the way Tengen sees it, the job of the future will be working for a futuristic DHL-style courier - only instead of delivering components and documents from one side of the world to the other, your job will be more along the lines of taking secret packages on a death-defying mission through enemy lines.

Following an illustrious line-up that includes such coin-operated notables as Hard Drivin' and Klax, Tengen's latest, Hydra, puts you at the wheel of a high-powered, heavily-armoured Hydracraft, powering your way through nine levels of action in an effort to deliver those all-important packages.

As ever, the conversion is being brought to you by those clever coding chappies at Domark, who hope to recreate exactly the coin-op's tearsome line-up of enemy boats, jet-skis, zeppelins, choppers, fighters and hovercraft all coming at you against a digitised background.

But for those of you who can't wait for Hydra to make it to your screen, why not get in a little fast-boating practice by taking part in this easy-to-enter competition?

Domark is offering the fabulous 'Christina' a 1/24 scale remote-controlled pleasure yacht (so realistic that it's even got a fully-working bilge-pump!) to the lucky winner, but not only that, eight runners up will each receive a 'Dolphin'! Slightly smaller than the Christina, the Dolphin is a 1/30 scale recreation of a pleasure boat designed for use in pools and ponds.

So if you fancy a life on the ocean wave, simply answer the following three questions, and send your entry on the back of a postcard (or sealed envelope) to Watery Winner, The One, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU, to arrive no later than May 9th 1991.







- 1. Which of the following coin-ops was also converted to computer by Domark?
- a) Escape From The Planet Of The Robot Monsters
- b) Golden Axe
- c) Super Hang-On
- 2. Which previous Domark game also featured water-based shooting action?
- a) Spitting Image
- b) MiG-29 Fulcrum
- c) Live And Let Die
- 3. Which famous coin-op hardware company is responsible for the Tengen range?
- a) Taito
- b) Bally
- c) Atari

### THE SMALL PRINT

The editor's decision is final and correspondence will be entered into, winners will be published in a future issue of The One. Employees of EMAP and Domark (and their relatives) may not enter. No cash alternative will be offered in place of any of the



# APPER ANA



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Z O X



















GAMES

### PROJECT Air Duel

PUBLISHER MicroProse

AUTHORS
Glyn Williams
(Design and code)
Martin Moth
(Project
management and
additional design)

October 1990

RELEASE August 1991

Gordon
Houghton
dons his
flying
jacket,
starches his
scarf and
samples
high noon
at high
altitude.

### FLYING TON

Programmer on the rebound meets software house, they fall in love and spawn a child. In this case the programmer is Glyn Williams, and the gleam in his eye was a 3D dogfighting game called Fokker. After experiencing some difficulties in his relationship with Activision (for whom he produced Warhead) he turned to MicroProse, who gave life to his project and allowed it to grow. Together they christened the new, improved version - Air Duel.

A combination of fighter aircraft and the MicroProse tag usually means one thing: an in-depth bells-and-whistles combat simulation. But that's not the case this time, as project manager Martin Moth explains: "You can't really term it a simulation, because there isn't enough happening at ground level: while the world you're in is realistic, it's not totally accurate. It's also not mission-based, it's simply a contest between two aircraft - you and the enemy."

Further evidence of this arcade-style approach is its planned appearance on the MicroStyle label - Moth sees it as similar to previous releases under that flag, such as RVF Handa and Stunt Car Racer: "There are elements of realism in there to make the gameplay fun, but the basic aim is to get up, shoot the enemy, and get down again."

In principle it's similar to Air Combat,

one of Atari's first ever coin-ops, released in the late 1970s, where a variety of ancient and modern planes with equal weaponry duelled for supremacy of the skies. Add an extra dimension, switch to firstperson perspective and create realistic flying conditions, and you've got the essence of Air Due!

There's a quartet of scenarios

featured - two World Wars, the jet age and outer space - the landscape of each designed to convey the atmosphere of the period. For example, the World War I scenario is mostly made up of grey tones, for that genuine 'early marning over the Front' effect.

The combatants in this first duel are the core of Glyn's original game: a Fokker DRT Triplane and a Sapwith Camel, The World War II backdrop is the Pacific Islands, switching the action from land to sea and starring a Mitsubishi AóM Zera versus a F4F-3



ONE CONCESSION TO REALISM is that all of the aircraft feature accurate flight characteristics; it will be much easier to stall and more difficult to gain height in this WWI Fokker Triplane than it would be in the Wildcat, and the F-18s can indulge in vertical climbs and fancy monoeuvres. One thing that may surprise MicroProse fans is that this will be a purely apolitical game; the Triplane, as you can see, has no nationality markings. This decision to exclude political details also results in a faster screen update and a more manoeuvrable plane.

TO FREE WILLIAMS from some of the spadework of design, Moth is currently modelling each of the six real and two imagined aircraft on a computer. The process begins with original drawings which he converts

into a series of points and faces for the front, side and top views, all on graph paper. These are then transferred onto a PC, with each design taking about 10 days to complete. Because the nature of the game keeps the land detail to a minimum, there is more room for detail on the aircraft themselves. Once the graph paper version has been transferred to the PC, it undergoes Binary Space Partitioning: this is a way of depth-sorting all the polygons, so that you only see the faces you are meant to see. Once the colours and the x/y/z coordinates have been checked, the finished aircraft design can be downloaded onto Glyn's machine.

Grumman Wildcat. However, if you prefer the roar of turbines and the smell of hot metal, the present day scenario features a McDonnell-Douglas F-18 Hornet and a MiG-29 tussling over the Gulf. Then there's space, the final frontier, a riot of space stations,

girders, and two (as yet unspecified) combat vehicles.

Out-and-out doglight games are a rare breed - Martin Moth can only recall a couple of noteworthy efforts: the classic C64 Mirrorsoft title, Spitfire 40, and Image Works' vector-based

G



TO HELP YOU ORIENT YOURSELF in the sky, Air Duel incorporates reference points such as the sun and clouds, and a natty little 3D cueing system in the cockpit. This is actually an arrow borrowed from the F-15 arcade machine, which changes shape so that it always points towards the enemy. For example, if the arrow is squat and pointing upwards, the enemy is straight ahead; if it's long and pointing down, the enemy is behind you.

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IN TWO-PLAYER MODE, the action can be displayed in three ways. You can link two machines together, producing the same fullscreen effect as solo player mode, or you can have two players on one machine and split the screen either horizontally or vertically. Contests will simply be a case of destroying the other player over a predetermined number



Sky Chase: "Sky Chase worked because it was so fast and playable, although it would have been nice to have had polygons. Spitfire 40 had polygons, but if was too slow."

The aim with Air Duel is to achieve a compromise of realism and playability. The key word is 'chuggy': "You can get down almost to chuggy; but there's a fine line between chuggy playable and chuggy unplayable. You want responsiveness without having to think about it."

One of the most vital aspects of any one-on-one game is the difficulty of the simulated opponents, a factor which Moth and Williams haven't overlooked: "The quality of computer combatants will vary according your ability. Every time you achieve success the computer analyses your performance: the better you get, the smarter the opponent you face.

However, this difficulty won't be graded according to the scenario: you'll be able to choose any of the four combat scenes from the options screen, and each will initially feature similar conditions. Do well in single-player mode and your achievements are saved to disk. Typically, the computer

records the terms in which you achieved a high score, so that your fally will be accompanied by information that you were a novice pilot with unlimited fuel in realistic flying conditions.

This leads to the range of options already penned in. The basic elements include single and two-player modes with either player controlling either aircraft in any scenario - and realistic or arcade-style flight characteristics.

These two flight modes have been with the project since its inception: Williams always intended to have accurate controls for flight sim buffs and arcade controls for the fast food brigade, where specific joystick actions lead to



is also considering including limited and unlimited fuel supply options, optional navigation aids, rewards for stunts and other bonuses. The point of all this is that if an expert pilot plays a novice, a system of handicaps makes

the fight fairer.

The flight mechanics are currently in development, a compromise of Williams' programming and Moth's own flying experience. Moth is an old hand with MicroProse's very own plane, a four-seater Piper Warrior. "Flying an aircraft is actually quite simple," he points out, "the difficult part is learning the instrumentation and rules." This experience has helped shape Glyn's flight model, which was initially too sensitive to joystick control, and had an auto-levelling function: "It effectively

restricted you to driving around on one level without using the verticals."

The ultimate criterion is playability, as Moth explains: "It's all down to speed. Masses of depth and superintelligent enemies would detract from the action. One of the interesting features we discovered about Dynamix' Red Baron was that when you go into combat it cuts out about 75 per cent of the ground detail. All you really need when you're tighting is a reference horizon and a few features - we hope you won't have time to stop and admire the scenery."

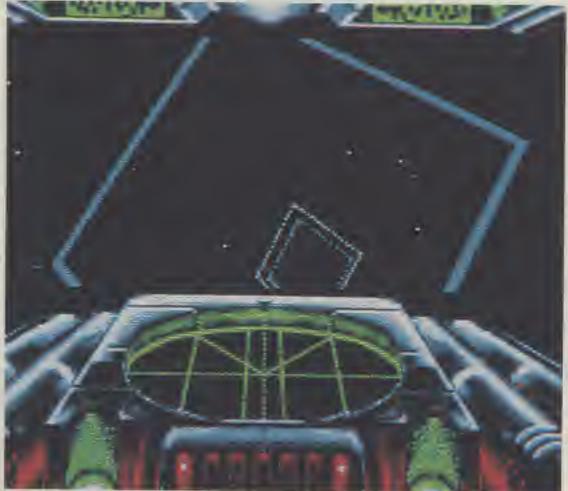
### THE ART OF COMPROMISE

JUGGLING THE DEMANDS of frame rate and realism is one of the key problems in Air Duel, more so than in most flight games because your success relies on flying prowess rather than high-tech weaponry.

MicroProse hopes to achieve a minimum final running speed of six to seven frames per second - at the moment, with debugging routines in place, it's running at around three to four. Simplification is the answer: there will be a maximum of 16 colours, and in two-player (split-screen) mode, a lot of the detail will automatically be removed.

The need for speed wasn't the only playability problem to be solved: if the scale of the aircraft was accurate, most of the time you would only see a dot on the horizon because the screen resolution isn't fine enough. As a result, from the cockpit viewpoint all the planes are approximately eight-times their normal size. However, when you switch to any one of the external views, the scale reverts back to normal - so that you don't, for example, have an aircraft that appears to be half the size of the carrier from which it is launched.

One final key feature which sacrificed realism to arcade action is the plane's shadow. This is intended to give an impression of height, and always appears in front of you, whichever direction you fly in and wherever the sun is in the sky.



AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES with the reference points in the off-world scenario. The dots you see here are intended to give some idea of direction in 3D space, but will almost certainly be changed "probably to a 3D grid." There are also plenty of atmospheric details to be added, including huge girder structures, shuttles, docking stations and MMUs (Manned Manoeuvring Units). Space combat presents interesting possibilities for flight modelling: inertia will play a part, so that turning corners could be a case of 'skidding' as your craft rotates, and you will also be able to reverse at the same speed as you move forwards. Each craft will be launched from a space station, either head-on or from remote points in the playing area. Design details haven't been finalised, either internally or externally, though Moth favours an Elite-style display and a green glow for the instrument panel.



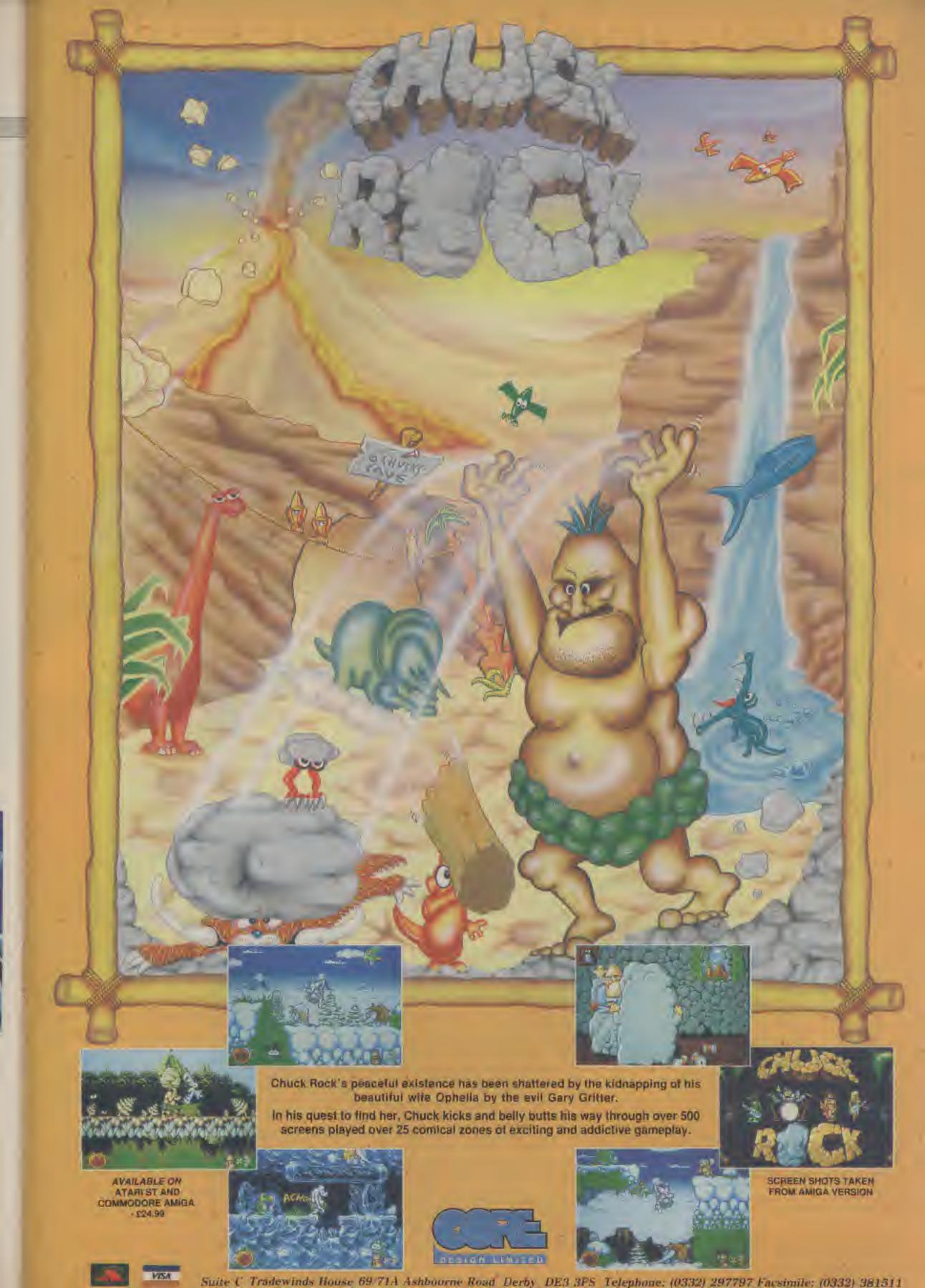
IN KEEPING WITH THE PURE DOGFIGHTING elements of the action, there isn't a vast array of high-tech weaponry available: machine guns appear in the two World Wars and present day scenarios, missiles appear in the present and laser bolts and plasma cannon turn up in the space age. There will probably be an option to replenish or even increase your firepower by performing stunts. Shooting down an aircraft is appropriately spectacular: it bursts into flame, smokes and then explodes, with plane parts flying everywhere. There should also be a replay option after a kill which cuts to an external view of the aircraft and relays the final few fatal seconds.

### **GLYN WINS HIS WINGS**

GLYN WILLIAMS HAS AN ECLECTIC TASTE in computers, as well as mastering all of the 16-bit machines he's digested a Wang, an Apple, a BBC, and a C64. His first efforts were all for the C64, an unreleased helicopter game followed by Cholo (for Rainbird) and a conversion of Starglider, Last year he produced the fruits of two years' labour: the space flight-cum-alien invasion epic, Warhead. Not a man to twiddle his thumbs when there's a Fokker to be flown, he also plotted his current project, which makes use of many of the 3D routines found in Warhead.



GROUND OBJECTS will be kept to a minimum in the heat of battle, but they will be included in other aspects of the game. For example, you will be able to watch the Wildcat launch from its carrier, and there will be plenty of islands and runways to land on, bunkers, bridges and hangars to destroy or fly through, and even features found in the F-15 coin-op, such as oil-rigs and refineries. As well as being decorative, you could opt to turn them into stunt objects: for example, you could decide that flying under a hangar would immediately refuel the aircraft, or simply gain you extra points.







HEN THE TOP-CLASS future sports extravaganza Projectyle catapulted Eldritch The Cat to stardom last summer, the team consisted of two men and a couple of computers. These days The Cat has bigger fish to fry. In the last 12 months Eldritch has acquired two new directors, moved offices, recruited a handful of staff, lost two directors and blagged software contracts from nine different publishers. Only one of the original twosome - Steve Wetherill - remains: his sometime partner Marc Dawson is currently financing marriage and mortgage as project manager for educational publisher Database. The other Cat to leave the litter was Stefan Walker wha's since become a full-time employee of Electronic Arts.

Top on this month's list of imminent Eldritch projects is Millenium's Tentacle - a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up with a spring in its tail.

At first it sounds like the usual aliens threaten to eat babies and mash your world in 24 hours' scenario. In this case though, the vehicle charged with positioning a series of time pods and blasting seven shades of slime out of everything in between, is no bog-standard fighter plane. What we're dealing with here is a tentacle craft not only one of the most deadly weapons that ever mutilated mutant organisms, but also one that's kitted out with a smart set of springs or tentacles just right for spanning gulfs



THE DESIGN FOR THE ORIGINAL MAIN SPRITE was vetoed by Millenium. "Basically they took one look at it and said that it reminded them of an earring."

and grabbing hold of the most treacherous terrain.

Control is a question of twisting the joystick to increase the momentum of the craft's spin. With a bit of practise the wonder-machine can be twisted right from one corner of the screen in to the other. Mark McCubbin,



HERO SPRITE MARK 2 is a massive 48x48 pixels big. "Heroes are usually 24x16, just little spaceships. We thought that looked a bit weedy, so we expanded the size."

IN ALL, THERE'S A GRAND
TOTAL OF 150 DIFFERENT
ANIMATED ALIENS to kill, the
biggest, a giant elephant,
around 160x128 pixels large,
Small creatures fill in the gaps
between mega-alien bashing
and are designed to link into
puzzles.





PROJECT Tentacle

PUBLISHER Millennium

**AUTHOR** Mark McCubbin (Design, Coding, Project Management) Jimmy Savage (Graphics) Martin Calvert (Graphics) Mark Jones (Graphics) Dick Splash (Graphics) Steve Wetherill (Sound) Tim Wright (Sound)

August 1990

RELEASE June 1991

WITH THE **EXCEPTION OF** CREATING OCCAL perfecting the movement of the hero craft took by for the longest chunk of development time. "I just couldn't get the springs right." explains Mark. "I had a mental block in actually programming it, so in the end everybody had to chip in and help me out." This picture is taken from an early demo.



THE LANDSCAPE BLOCKS for each level are designed according to the themes of eight chosen regions: a dinosaur world, a fantasy land, a Roger Dean universe, a Beast 2 environment, a volcano stage, a Tentacle maze, a metal world and one still to be defined. During level-design, the inhouse map editor allows blocks like this one to be pushed and shunted about at will.

programmer, director and chief designer elaborates: "Originally it was intended for the springs to be there all the time but it was difficult to design interesting puzzles around it." Instead he apted for a compromise. Tentacle control alternates with continuous scroll sections in which the screen moves around the hero Blood Money-style.

The idea hit McCubbin, whose previous projects includes the ST conversion of Shadow Of The Beast, practically by magic: "It sounds corny, but I bought a new pen and this was the first thing that came into my head. I just wrote it down - I don't

know why I came up with it."

Days later he suggested it to Millenium.
"The game spec was just a two-page scrap of paper with a few little drawings at

just looked right.

drawings at
the side; but
they bought it.
We don't
normally sign
games on the basis of
scraps, but Millenium wanted
to sign a project with us and Tentacle

With the exception of a couple of major graphical overhauls, the results so far have followed the original concept to the letter: eight worlds stuffed with giant monsters, a bigger than average hero sprite and 12 mega-meanies plus an arsenal of weapons to each level.

All of those graphics (including an extra-long intro sequence) may add up to one hell of a three-disk program. What makes it possible is the all singing, all-dancing Eldritch in-house development system. Dubbed Occai (pronounced Och Aye) for no better reason than the fact that Mark



"WHEN WE FIRST SENT THE GRAPHICS to Millenium they said, 'Make them mean', so Jimmy drew teeth on them all. Then he realised that isn't what they meant." For Jimmy Savage, nowt but a schoolbay before he began drawing pictures for The Cot, Tentacle has been a personal learning process. Early practice graphics like this called for "some seriously drastic changes,"; these days he's a veteran at producing exactly the kind of fantasy sprites Mark McCubbin wants.

**GRAPHICS** 

Tentacle's graphics, the responsibility of Jimmy Savage, Martin Calvert, Mark Jones and Dick Splash, are heavily influenced by their collective heroes: Rodney Mathews, Roger Dean and Tim

White Inevitably, this means there'll be certain resemblances to Psygnosis' distinctive graphical style but for McCubbin and Wetherill, this is pure coincidence. "Everyone thinks it's a Psygnosis game at first, but we haven't copied Psygnosis we just read the same books as they do: Last Ship Home by Rodney Mathews and Chiaroscura by Tim White. Reflections' graphics are very popular, but they're not the

anly ones who like that style. Mark Robinson just happens to draw in the same kind of style as Jimmy Savage - and that just happens to be a Rodney Mathews, Roger Dean kind of style."



BIZARRE, MEAN
AND UGLY. The
animation designs
for flies like this
one comes straight
out of Jimmy
Savage's head. "I
just look at a still
picture of a Tim
White creature and
imagine how it
mayes."

THE TENTACLE SHIP'S ULTIMATE
WEAPON is a giant spinning star and

bullet extravaganza which hasn't been completed yet. "We're trying to make all the weapons really big so they look impressive." enthuses Mark McCubbin. There'll be 12 different types, everything from plasma bombs to lasers and a boost button to determine the strength. Finding out exactly how well each weapon works against a specific alien will all be part of the puzzle. An unusual feature is the ability to switch between

any of your four available craft at any time. Each can be equipped with its own collectable hardware: any weapon you've already got is automatically assigned to one of your reserves.

McCubbin is a Scot, this was begun as an engine exclusively for Tentacle, then expanded to cover the development of all current Eldritch products. Asked to describe it, McCubbin waxes lyrical: "It's just very, very good." In other words, it's a language which allows several programmers to code a game simultaneously on several machines. "Someone can program part of it on a PC and part of it on the ST and it'll work on both machines." The same applies to Amiga and Sega

MegaDrive data, the net result being that development time is cut down substantially.

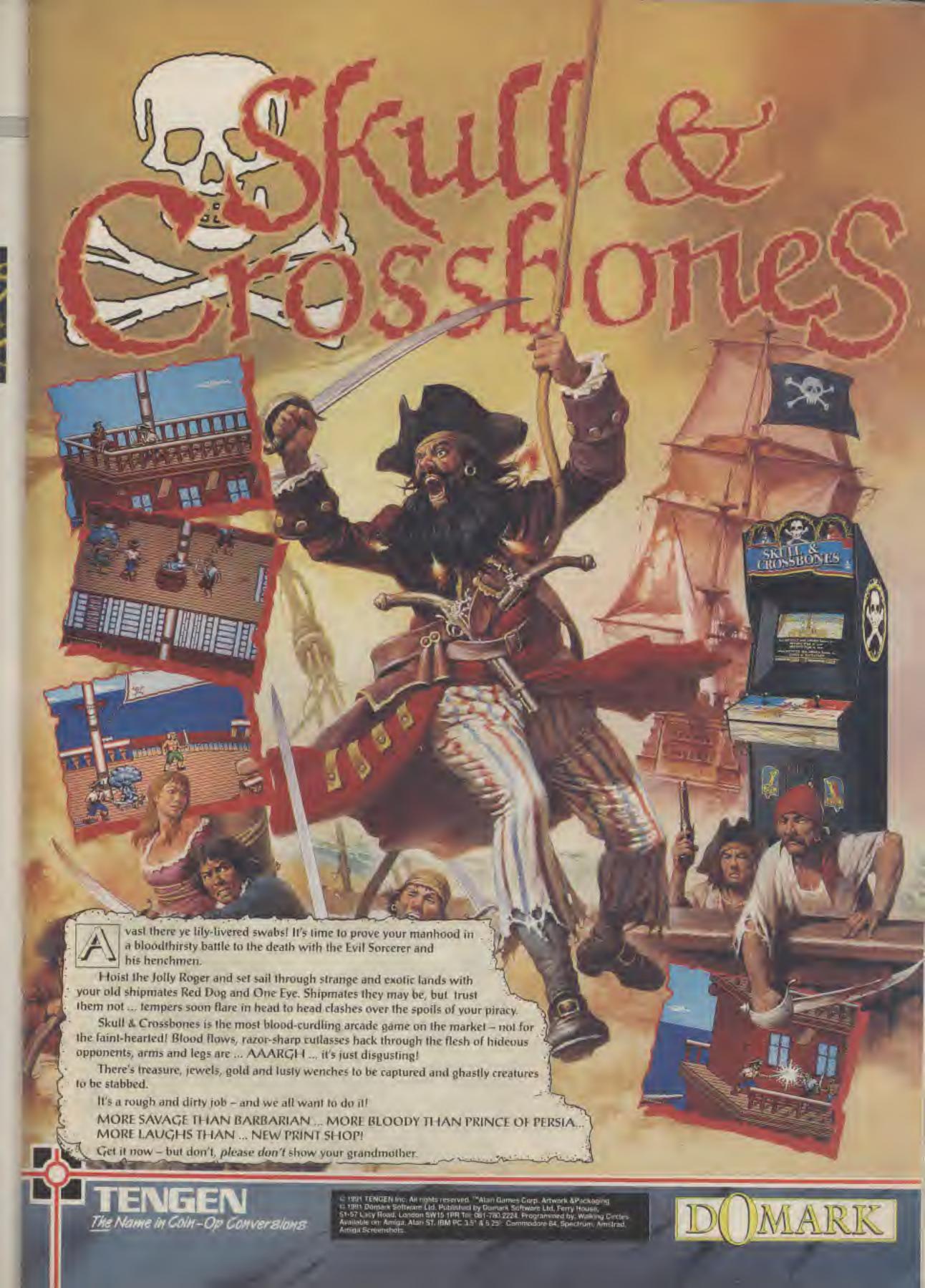
Steve Wetherill chips in: "It's really an animation and movement control language with lots of bells and whistles tagged on." Initial development is carried out on PCs using SNASM. "To make Tentacle work on another format, all the Occai code stays the same - it's only the graphics handlers that need changing. The game logic is already working fully."

Occai, which also sports some pretty smart data-crunching capabilities, is constantly being updated and already into version 2.23. "And that's a lot of versions." In theory they should all be backwardly compatible so that old code never becomes obsolete. In practice it doesn't always work out quite that way. McCubbin: "We're not exactly popular when we use something in a new version that they have to change all the code for, but so far it's only happened twice."

By now, the programming spadework has been more or less completed. All that's left is to finalise the graphics, fine tune the hero craft's handling and implement the level designs. Meanwhile other Eldritch projects are vying for attention. Expect to see The Cat's footprint on (among others) a superhero exploit for Electronic Arts, System 3's revamped Myth and Elite's coin-op conversion of Cavernen Ninja over forthcoming months.

### SOUND

When you've got 150 different complex sprites to process there isn't much room left for elaborate sound. However, a series of atmospheric Tentacle effects designed to enhance crucial parts of the action are currently being programmed by Steve Wetherill and Tim Wright.



### PROJECT Rybok

### PUBLISHER

Electronic Zoo/Eldritch The Cat

### AUTHOR

Eldritch The Cat Mark McCubbin (Design and Coding) Jimmy Savage (Graphics) Andy Jones (Graphics) Mike Williams (Graphics) Dave Price (Graphics) Martin Calvert (Graphics) Steve Wetherill (Sound) Tim Wright (Sound)

INITIATED February 1991

RELEASE September 1991

### Eldritch The Cat and Electronic Zoo approach their first joint publishing venture with their feet firmly on the ground. Kati Hamza goes in for some serious sole-searching.

ARLIER THIS YEAR, the phone rang at the Liverpudlian offices of Eldritch The Cat. Mark McCubbin, director and programmer, picked up the phone: "It was Electronic Zoo, and they said, 'We want to do a joint publishing venture. Come up with a game,' so that is exactly what we did."

The result is Rybok (pronounced Ree-bok, like the trainers), an allout horizontally scrolling beat 'em up with a metallic touch. The hero, one giant-sized, gun-toting, merciless dude, is entrusted with the task of cleaning a number (as yet undefined) of levels bursting at the seams with bugs, beasts and bloodthirsty creatures.

But this is a man with a secret: as he wanders through the regions of his troubled world, ped pick-ups transform his fleshy arms and legs into the articulated appendages of an intelligent robot.

Unlike Tentacle, the other Eldritch release covered this month.
Rybok is aimed at a traditional audience. McCubbin expands: "We'll be creating a good playable game, but we're not going for originality." Instead the objectives are giant graphics, speed and coin-op quality. "We're aiming at people who want loads of pictures and giant creatures to blow apart – arcade fanatics basically."

The magic word is BIG, as McCubbin demonstrates. "The thing about it is that it's got big, colourful, detailed graphics, and I mean really

Beast big, but big, big, big, Eldritch The Cat big."

Big translates into a main sprite that's four times larger than the chunkier-than-average star of Shadow Of The Beast. "It works out at 96 x 80 pixels. I don't think you can get much bigger than that," McCubbin insists. There'll also be a superlong intro sequence ("It's vital to have that because it really sets the scene") and more than

big graphics, not just big, big like Shadow Of The

"Hopefully if it's good enough it should go on to the arcades rather than the other way around," adds graphic artist Martin Calvert, "That's why we want it to feel like a coin-op rather than something programmed for 16-Bit."

10 giant aliens per level.

The cats are realistic about exactly what kind of a game they're aiming for. Rybok is the kind of money-making product designed to finance other more original projects, so it's got to sell well. And if it's going to do that, then it won't necessarily be breaking new ground. Steve Weatherill explains "Most of the games that sell aren't very original. You do get the odd *Populous* and stuff like that, but it you try and aim to write Populous you'll be working on it for years and years and go bust in

Something which makes money."
That doesn't mean that Rybok will be indistinguishable from every other beat 'em up though: "The last thing we want to do is annoy

the process. So we have to do

the player. We're really aiming to produce an arcade-quality game, but it's got to have some sort of twist to make it different from the rest, otherwise it'd be boring

writing it." So what are the

So what are the magic ingredients that'll turn the average piece of code into a smash-hit arcade game? Martin Calvert sets the ball rolling: "An exciting variety of graphics, not to mention the way you fight and defeat the enemies."

McCubbin chips in: "The important thing is to keep introducing new features, new things appearing where you least expect them." One of his personal favourites is

### PRON



THESE GUYS ARE SMALL-FRY in comparison with the kind of meanies you can expect to see in the finished game. "What we're aiming for are giant aliens that actually look bigger than the screen vertically." Defeating them won't just be a question of punching until your knuckles are raw. You may end up having to jump on a bad guy's knees or bash key body parts to get the required result.



UNLIKE MOST ARCADE ADVENTURES, Rybok doesn't have its sprites wandering around the landscape in graduated steps; instead they smoothly follow the contours of the maps. This, an extremely early demo, consists largely of landscapes pinched from Tentacle (see page 57) and a very early sprite design. The finished hero, Eldritch assures us, won't bear such a striking similarity to 'The Beast'.



THERE'S NO PARALLAX SCROLLING AS YET, but there will be, mainly because in a game that's aiming for mega-graphics you just can't leave it out.

### DUNCED REE-BOK

ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE,
Rybok's weapons are destined to be
big. In addition to a few standard
pieces of hardware you'll also be
able to collect several more exotic
ones. On the list so far are a South
American bolas (a weapon consisting of two balls connected by a
string, which wraps itself around
the enemy's legs), a boomerang and
a gigantic axe.



### SOUND

Coin-op quality means coin-op sound. Musician Tim Wright, aided and abelied by the original Eldritch minstrel, director Steve Wetherill, is aiming for "amospheric, great thumping stereo sound effects." The movement of manufers will be mirrored by the speakers: if the beastie's to your left, for example, all that stereophonic sound should be blasting your left ear. At present negatiations are under way to acquire the licence to use Queen's Under Pressure. "So far they've asked for £ 150,000 though, so that's a bit unlikely."

Ghouls 'n' Ghosts, particularly the magic chests which spontaneously pop out of the ground: "That game's excellent, really well done. What attracts me is that however far you get, there's always something there that you're desperate to see more of. Curlosity is what drives you on to play the game and that's what we want to achieve with Rybok."

The similarity between the game's working title and a well-known brand of trainers is part of a shrewd, but as yet embryonic, marketing plan. So far, all Eldritch attempts to coax Reebok into sponsership have met with stony silence, "I don't think they believed us with a name like Eldritch The Cat. We also approached Cadbury's because we thought of basing a game round the exploits of the man in black. You know, 'because the lady loves Milk Tray'. I don't think they believed us either."

Whatever the outcome of these heroic marketing attempts, and whatever the game is finally called (Rybok is very much a working title) McCubbin is determined to pay homage to the original idea and

determined to pay homage to the original idea and somehow fit his favourite footwear in: "They may not be Reeboks, but somewhere there will definitely be trainers."

LIKE THIS, THE NEW ELDRITCH THE CAT LOGO, all of the artwork and packaging for Rybok will be designed by the team's idol, artist Tim White. At present, McCubbin and company are trying to persuade him to use a computer to aid his designs and have knocked up a computerised version of the logo just so thay could



demonstrate how easy it would be to change the colours on the design. White was impressed, but not convinced.



### STOP PRESS!

Just as we were about to put this page to bed Eldritch told us that they had finally come up with a new name for Rybok, which is: Under Pressure.

ONCE YOU'VE NABBED ALL THE RELEVANT PARTS, your hero, equipped with giant helmet, robotic legs and metal arms, looks something like this. Straightforward control of this technical monstrosity is a priority for The Cat; needing to learn an instruction book full of complex movements just doesn't appeal. McCubbin explains: "The more moves you have, the more confusing it gets. I just don't like the sort of game where you've got to point the joystick up to the left and waggle a bit. You usually end up performing some move you really don't want to do, like leaping around when you want to deliver a punch."

### **GRAPHICS**

"Rybok is going to be a graphics showcase," declares Steve Wetherill. And with five graphic artists (martin Calvert, Jimmy Savage, Mike Williams, Andy Jones and Dave Price chipping in, they should definitely have enough material. For its first co-publishing venture Eldritch has total control over all the graphics, so there'll be giant wolves and killer dogs, plus stylistic tributes to the company's lavourite artists, Rodney Matthews, Roger Dean and Tim White. "In a beat 'em up it's good to beat the hell out of things that jump at you," McCubbin claims. The finished baddies will leap out dromatically and backspin when you hit them, though exactly how hasn't been established yet. "The main thing," explains Calvert, "is to get away from the punks with the Mohicans. How many times have you beaten up one of those?"

### Win an Authentic Flying Jacket in This Great MicroProse Competition

AVE YOU ALWAYS FANCIED YOURSELF as a pilot, but couldn't afford the lessons? Or maybe you're afraid of heights... or could it be that your eyesight let you down?

Whatever your reason for not being up there in the clouds with the Toppest of Top Guns, MicroProse is happy to offer you the chance to strike the right poses by offering an authentic leather flying jacket to the winner of this easy-to-enter competition.

And why is the Tetbury-based simulation specialist willing to stump up such an awesome aviational giveaway? Because of the imminent release of F-15 Strike Eagle II - that's why!

F-15 Il's simulation of high-speed combat is so realistic that you'll almost feel the 'G's, so what better way to put the finishing touches to the atmosphere than be getting kitted out in a genuine leather flying jacket before booting up for another blast.

And what do you have to do to get your sleeves into this hide? Simple. Just use your skill and judgement to filter out the correct answers to the teasers opposite. When you think you've got them right, just pop the answers on the back of a postcard (or on a sealed envelope) and send it to: Lovely Leather, The One, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.

The competition closes by last post on May 9th 1991, so get those entries in. Oh, and by the way, don't forget to state your size (so that we know which jacket to get for you, of course!).

### THE SMALL PRINT

The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into, winners will be published in a future issue of The One. Employees of EMAP and MicroPrase (and their friends or relations) may not enter. No costs alternative will be affered in place of the prize.



BE ONE OF THE LADS in your very own leather flying jacket (not necessarily exactly like one of these though).

- 1. Which of these is a famous MicroProse flight simulator?
- a) Rainbow Islands
- b) S-FA Interdictor
- c) Gunship
- 2. Who is MicroProse's all-action, high-flying 'friend of the Pentagon' boss?
- a) Tom 'Silly' Cruise b) 'Wild' Bill Stealey
- c) Crazy 'Dave' Gruisin
- 3. Which legendary Hollywood character is famous for his leather jacket?
- a) Indiana Jones
- b) John Rambo
- c) Pee Wee Herman

### FLAMES OF FREEDOM

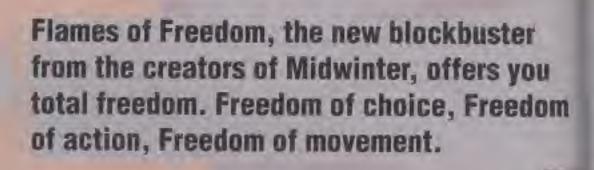


TOTAL FREEDOM

### FLAMES O



Dogfight with opponents over villages for command of the skies, or attack ground targets which serve the enemy's cause.





Night time sequences afford excellent cover for secret movement and actions, illuminated by the glare of your jeep's headlights.



The playing area of three million cubic miles is not restricted solely to areas above ground. You have full freedom of movement underwater, and three types of 'submarine' in which to achieve it.

Screen shots shown are taken from the Atari ST versions. Actual sceens may vary by format



Seek out and destroy enemy shipping units, condemning them to a watery grave on the sea bed, from where the ocean's surface is clearly visible above.



TOTAL FREEDOM- FROM RAIB

(1,000 miles long X 1,000 miles wide X 15,000 feet high.) + (4,000 characters X 22 modes

### FREEDOM

A three dimensional environment packed with action, adventure and strategy. Entering it is easy.....breaking free is what's hard!



A million square miles of accurately mapped 3-D terrain, generated by fractal techniques, and fully light sourced throughout, provides a playing arena far superior to even its predecessor, Midwinter I.



Fly the skies above the forty-one islands by helicopter, zeppelin, parachute, rocket pack, or, as seen here, biplane and balloon, all offering superb views of the land and of the other aircraft.



The enemy have a vast array for firepower aimed at you, on land, in the air, and across the sea, and react quickly and intelligently to your actions.

Flames of Freedom will be available shortly for your Commodore Amiga, Atari ST and IBM PC compatibles.



The sea surface is generated by constantly moving fractal points, causing you to bob up and down as you swim or sail across it.

### AIBIRD MASTERS OF STRATEGY

OFREED OM

des transprt X 1,000s of buildings) = 3,000,000 cubic miles of Action, Adventure and Strategy.



### WHAT'S TICKLING THE TEAM?

The One team have been having a whale of a time this month, what with splitting the magazine into two and getting used to all the amazing new Desk Top Publishing technology that's now used to put the magazine together. But despite rushing around like blue-arsed flies we've all still managed to get some time in on our favourite games. Here's what tickled our fingers this month.

### CIARAN BRENNAN

Clarán's been off practising his skling in Andorra this month (how come, when everyone else has been working so hard?). He found the Sega Game Gear excellent in-flight entertainment on the way over, with both Super Monaco G.P. and Columns getting a good look in.

### GARETH JONES

Gareth has been indulging his passion for frequent games of Kick Off 2 - and losing as usual. Consolation has come in the form of a brand new Macintosh computer for him to play with. He's already discovered that Crystal Quest on that machine is a perfect way to improve his mouse technique!

### LAURENCE SCOTFORD

Laurence has remembered why it was he liked Cadaver so much, and is currently burning the midnight oil trying to get his head round Cadaver - The Pay Off, as well as rediscovering the delights of Lemmings. He's also having fun with a new Macintosh and a PD version of Backgammon.

### PAUL PRESLEY

Sporting Paul has been sweating it out with Jahangir Khan's World Championship Squash. He's also had cause to celebrate because he's finally managed to complete The Secret Of Monkey Island.

### JULIAN WATSHAM

New kid on the block Jools is already a firm fan of that corny caveman Chuck Rock, and going back even further in time to resample the wonders of Xenon II. Back in the present he's been keeping himself happy on the long train journeys into work with Gargoyle's Quest on the Gameboy, and then proving his prowess with The Killing Game Show once he's got here.

his is an exciting moment for ST owners, because, for the first time, The One is bringing you 20 pages of stunning reviews exclusively for your machine. But we've not abandoned the traditional style that you're familiar with. Following our reviewers' comments, the games are left to speak for themselves. Relevant screenshots illustrate the game's features, while the ratings, price, and release date are encapsulated in an easy- Domark to-digest form. What more could you

possibly ask for? PRICE £24.99 OUT Now GRAPHICS 78% SOUND 74% PLAYABILITY 75% VALUE 60% OVERALL

### GRAPHICS

Not necessarily a measure of how colourful or well drawn they are. but how well they are used

### SOUNDS

Once again, this isn't a reflection of quantity, or indeed quality, but of how well it fits in.

### PLAYABILITY

The big one - how does the game feel - addictive or just uninteresting?

### VALUE

Essentially a reflection of lasting interest - how much game you get for your cash.

### OVERALL

A useful point of reference - a summary of the preceding ratings.



**68 LEMMINGS** Microprose

72 SKULL AND CROSSBONES



Lemmings

75 JAHANGIR KHAN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SQUASH Krisalis

78 CADAVER - THE PAY OFF Renegade

80 BUILDERLAND Loriciels



Cadaver - The Pay Off.

The Killing Game Show.

'Nam.

**82 THE KILLING GAME SHOW** 

Psygnosis

85 VIZ Virgin Games

88 CHUCK ROCK Core Design

90 CRYSTALS OF ARBOREA



Palace

92 'NAM Domark

97 PREDATOR 2 Image Works

### LEMMINGS Psygnosis

PRICE

E25.99

OUT

GRAPHICS

88%

SOUND

90%

PLAYABILITY

96%

VALUE

93%

OVERALL

95%

HENEVER YOU'RE SITTING IN YOUR ROOM on a rainy Sunday afternoon, feeling sorry for yourself and wondering whether life has any meaning, then just spare a thought for small, furry, stupid creatures that are less fortunate than you are.

The critters we're talking about are lemmings - and on the Good Times Scale (from one to 10) the life that these guys lead doesn't even rank.

For a start, they live in the Arctic Tundra, a location that has all the residential qualities of Slough. But that's the least of their problems: because of a rather embarrassingly high sexual drive, lemmina communities are facing an alarming population problem. This has led to a huge number of unwanted lemmings.

If being a lemming is harrowing enough, then being an unwanted lemming is downright depressing. It's not surprising then that many of the little guys are becoming suicidal, and taking off to the Siberian equivalent of Beachy Head to end it all.

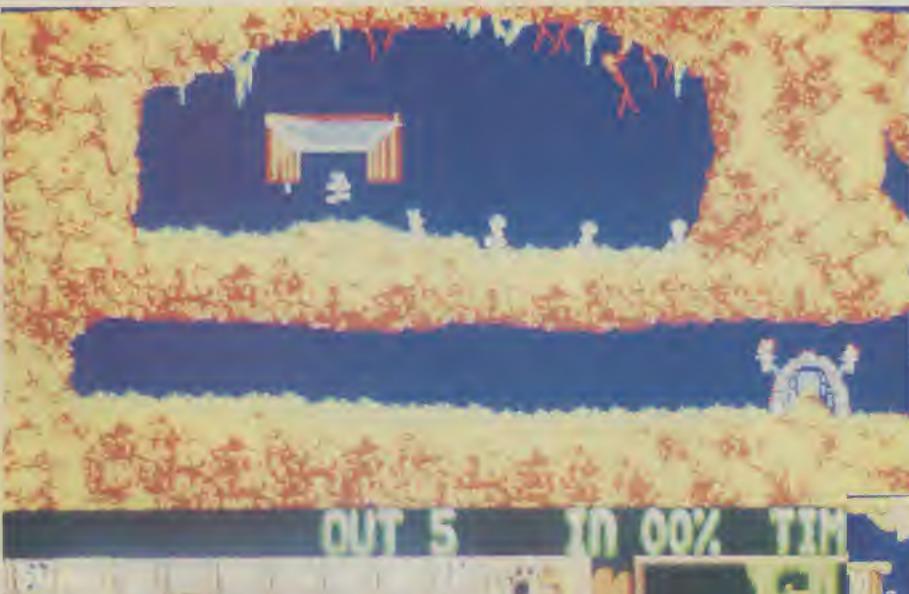
As a tribute to these sorry examples of lemminghood, DMA Design and Psygnosis have got together to prove that they can be redeemed after all, and it's up to you to help out.

Lemmings are being released at a constant rate into hostile landscapes. Once each lemming appears, it marches straight for home,

disregarding all the deadly pitfalls that lie in its way. Fortunately individual lemmings can be given one of nine skills to help them guide their fellows safely home. To win a level you have to ensure that a specified percentage of lemmings make it home. Do that, and you'll be considered grown-up enough to tackle the next devious level. Fail, and you'll just have to try again until you get it right won't you? If you fancy yourself as a champion lemming saver you can always try a two-player game. In this case each lemminggod aims to get more of his batch of

lemmings home than his opponent. The added twist here is that, as well as using lemmings to clear a pathway, you can also send them of on sabotage missions to disrupt your opposite's efforts. You beast!

# LEMMIN



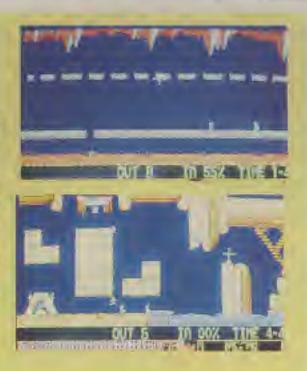
AT THE
BEGINNING OF
EACH LEVEL, the
lemmings pour
out their little
trap-door. They
don't have to
march far to
their doom, so
it's important to
target the first
few out for
special lifesaving tasks.

NOW THIS IS A
SIGHT TO WARM
THE HEART - lots
of loveable
lemmings
leaping safely
back to their
home after
negotiating the
tragically
treacherous and
tortuous route.





HERE ARE SOME OF THE NASTIER THINGS that plague lemmingkind. Ten-ton weights, lemming-traps, pits of fire and vats of water are, believe it or not, some of the milder forms of lemming punishment that the fiendish designers have dreamed up.



Level 4 Now use miners and climbers

number of Levelings to
100% to Be Soved

Release Rate T
Time 5 Minutes

Rating Fun

Perss Mouse button to continue

BEFORE EACH LEVEL YOU'RE SHOWN A USEFUL MINI-MAP and told what percentage of lemmings you're expected to get home (also, each level has a title which often gives a clue as to the way to solve it). You'll also notice that each level has an unpronounceable access code: handy for those moments when you're dying for a cuppa.



IF THINGS GO BADLY WRONG, or if you're hit with a sudden vicious streak, then you can always opt for Lemming Armageddon. All of the femmings begin counting down from five to four and then explode simultaneously in a shower of lemming bits (yuk)!



AS WITH ALL PSYGNOSIS PRODUCTS, Lemmings comes with a superb animated intro. This one, however, scores extra points for being super-cute. Unfortunately the whole product gets cuter from here on. Don't say we didn't warn you!

A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT KETTLE
OF FISH boils up
during the twoplayer game.
Now, the exact
percentage of
lemmings that
you get home is
irrelevant as long
as you get more
home than your
opponent. To this
end, it's always
best to reserve

one or two lemmings for suicide missions into enemy territory. By blowing up your own lemmings at strategic points you can seriously hamper the enemy's efforts.



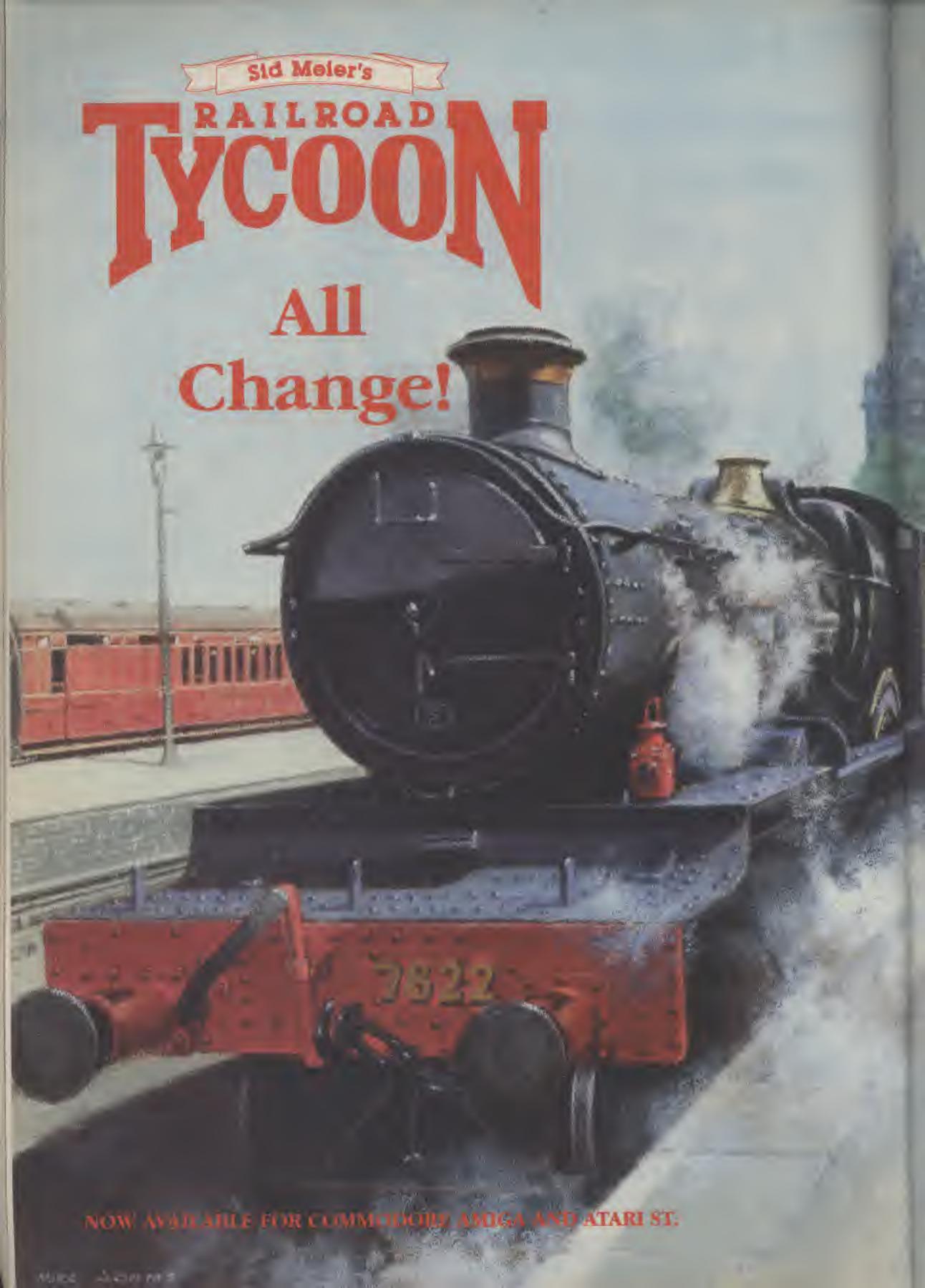
THE STATUS AND MENU BARS are where you do much of your lemming control. As well as altering the rate of lemming flow, pausing the game, and setting off Armageddon, you can select icons for Walking, Climbing, Floating, Bashing, Mining, Digging, Blocking, Exploding, and Building. The miniature map on the right is used to monitor the progress of lemmings off screen and to zero in on them quickly when necessary.

OMMENT

PLAYABLE AND ENJOYABLE
GAMES EVER - and if it doesn't outsell everything else on the shelves and pick up half a dozen awards in the process then I'm a grandfather lemming's belly-button fluff. Graphically it may not look very exciting: the lemming sprites are small (but well animated), but that's been a deliberate manoeuvre to get as much of each level on screen at

once (although the well-designed control interface allows you to zip back and forth across the landscape very quickly and accurately). The sound too is delightful: the action is accompanied by jaunty supermarket style ditties complemented by cute spot effects and digitised speech. But where Lemmings really scores is in its addictive playability: the initial levels are no real challenge, but they do warm you up nicely by introducing the elements gradually - and by the time you reach the trickier levels you'll be hooked.

Laurence Scotford





PRICE €24,99

NOW

GRAPHICS

78%

SOUND

79%

PLAYABILITY

76%

VALUE

79%

OVERALL

77%



OUR TALE BEGINS ONBOARD THE MERCHANT SHIP, The Jolly Roger, admist cries of 'pieces of eight' and 'yo ho ho'. Silence the wretches by slashing your way across deck... before being whisked away by an evil sorcerer. Oh, forget about that treasure - the scurvy dog takes it all.



THE SORCERER'S CASTLE is home to a glittering crown, guarded by a horde of evil pirates. To help him out, One Eye has to use all of his acrobatic skills (rope climbing for instance). Good thing he remembered to rub his hands in anti-friction cream before starting.



THE NINJAS ATTACK WITH THE SPEED OF... well, ninjas. If you don't chop them, you'll end up as chop suey. As if you hadn't guessed, this level is full of those quick-footed martial artists, whose strength lies in great agility. A bit of brawn and mental dexterity should see you through.

hoy me hearties! One-Eye's the name and slashin's the game. Come aboard the Jolly Roger and see for yourself (ar-harr, shiver me timbers,

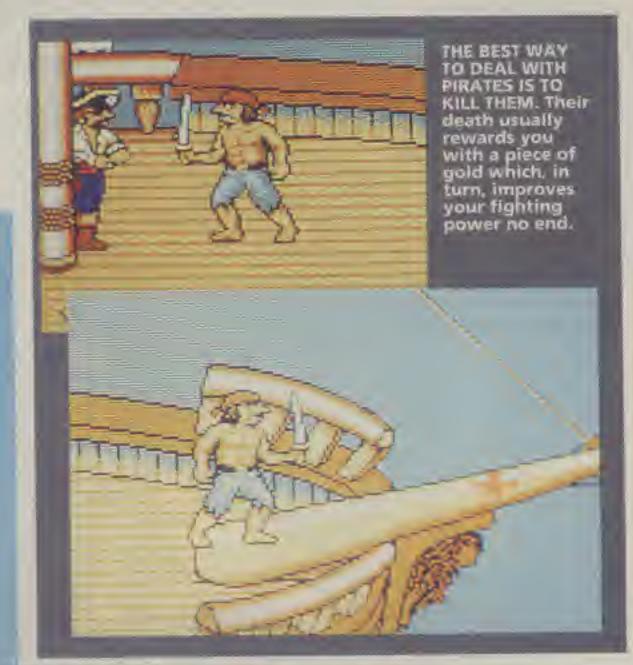
As you've probably guessed, Skull And Crossbones is all about pirates, in particular a gruesome twosome known as One Eye and Red Dog. These sinister salts are on a voyage of discovery, battling their way through eight levels of sword-fighting, spitting into buckets and walking the plank.





# GROSSBONES

On their way, they encounter all manner of demons and dastards, including pirate ships, castles, enchanted caves and mythical islands, with pirates and ninjas(?) to kill, wenches to save; and treasure to collect along the way. Treasure is particularly important: extra dosh means an increase in your fighting prowess, which means your foes will be swabbing the deck all the sooner.



THE MANY INTERMISSION SCREENS fill you in on the background details. This scene features One Eye and Red Dog behaving in an ungentlemanly manner and attempting to raid an innocent merchant ship This is no game for wimps:



WHEN YOU SEE A MYSTICAL CROSS, it's a good idea to walk over it and press fire... THIS IS A SLIGHT DEVIATION from
the usual beat 'em up fare, and it
gives the genre a couple of
unusual twists. The graphics are
unfussy, but convey the action
well enough and, together with a
brace of catchy tunes, they help
create the perfect pirate
atmosphere - it's not long before
you're muttering 'scurvy landlubbers' and 'yellow-backed dogs'
under your breath. The two-

player option is a bonus: it not only makes life a bit easier (particularly if you're playing with an expert), but it's also a lot more fun, since you've got the added element of fighting over who gets the extra energy and money. It's not the greatest or most polished beat 'em up in existence, but it's a good enough game to keep you entertained for a while, particularly when the blood begins to fly...

Julian Watsham

# World Championship

JAHANGIR KHAN, the World's number one Squash Player, now brought to the small screen by Krisalis Software.





The game features two stand alone simulations, Club Level, which is officially endorsed by the Squash Rackets
Association, this allows the player to compete in Squash Club Competitions, using menus which include an eight rung league ladder containing forty players, ball speed control using spot

colour option,

Match length one, three or five games, play by new or old rules and player statistics.

World Championship, the game simulates all the excitement and tension of the 32 seed World Championship Knockout competition.

Play one on one two player option, or head to head against the computer.









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# JAHANGIR KHAN'S





EACH GAME LASTS until one player scores nine points, but points are only awarded if you served the ball. Each shot has to hit the back wall once and the ball is not allowed to bounce more than once on the floor although there is no limit to the number of times it can hit the other three walls.

# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SQUASH

JAHANGIR KHAN'S

CHAMPIONSHIP SQUASH

> Krisalis PRICE

> our

GRAPHICS

90%

SOUND

91%

PLAYABILITY

92%

90%

OVERALL

in a small room with two racquets and a small blue ball, tell them to hit it against the wall and name the game after a fruit drink. The essence of squash is simply tennis on half a court, but it is regarded as one of the toughest (and most tiring) sports in the world.

There has only ever been one computerised version of the sport-Jonah Barrington's Squash on the Spectrum and C64. But all that has changed thanks to Krisalis Software. Jahangir Khan's World Championship Squash combines an isometrically-viewed arcade game with the managerial skills of the footballsimulation, Manchester United.

THE KNOCK-OUT tournament comprises of 32 players all vying for the championship trophy, with the top eight seeded. Any or all of the players can be placed under human control (should you know 31 other squash enthusiasts).



THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP is set up as a ladder: eight divisional rungs with five players in each. At the end of each season the top two players climb up a rung while the bottom two go down. Once again, any number of human players can take part.

EACH PLAYER IS
defined by five
attributes: Speed,
Fitness, Touch,
Judgement and
Tactics. For
humans, the
latter two are
provided by your
own skills, while
the first three are
increased as the
league
progresses.

AVERS BA

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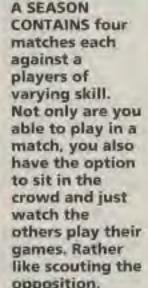
# JAHANGIR KHAN

Jahangir Khan is not, as some people believe, a distant relative a the infamous 13th century Mongol warrior, but put a squash racket in his hunds and he becomes as deadly an was court as his namesake was with an axe - burdly surprising when you consider his family buckground. His father, Rossan Khan, was the British Squash Champion in 1957 and most of his brothers are also heavily involved in the squash circuit. Literally translated, his name means 'conqueror of the world' and he certainly lives up to it. Khan is unbeaten in his last 500 games and is the holder of every squash title

in the world.



varying skill. to sit in the watch the





THERE ARE TWO WAYS of telling how good a player is: watching his previous matches and seeing how big the crowd is. Players like Jahangir Khan pack the house and pull in the television crews, whereas your first game will probably only pull in your immediate relatives.

TO HIT THE BALL, just move the joystick in one of eight directions and press the button. Three degrees of strength are available from volleys to lobs, all designed to confuse your opponent.

> WHETHER IT'S BECAUSE squash is a fiendishly difficult game to program on a computer, or whether it's because it is still considered a 'minority' sport, there haven't been a great deal of squash games, which is a pity if the quality of Krisalis' effort is anything to go by. Although Jahangir Khan combines both a sport sim and a managerial game,

it hasn't gone overboard on either, enabling them to flow freely together. Mass-scale championships are definitely in the offing. The game is full of little touches from the way the crowd size increases as your performances get better to the way the different coloured balls affect each game - blue balls are fast and bounce all over the court while heavy yellow ones make for a lot of running around. The biggest drawback is that until you get the hang of the control method, most games are going to end as 9-0 losses. Fortunately, the easy control option helps you work on your positioning first before you start trying to control your shots. It doesn't take too long to get the hang of things and as soon as you do, you're in for one of the best ball sport games to come along for a long time.

Paul Presley

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Such as Atari and Commodore.

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# CADAVER

THE PAY-OFF Renegade

PRICE

### £14.99

(Original Cadaver disk required)

NOW

GRAPHICS

EQUAR

SOUND

PLAYABILITY

VALUE

OVERALL

88%



KARADOC ARRIVES OUTSIDE THE TAVERN: this is the very first location and already he's got problems. The door is locked, and there's no other way in. That slot is probably the way to get the door open, but what the hell goes into the slot?



AT LAST, HAVING WANDERED through the deserted inn, you come across some form of human life. He wants his supper, in return for which he'll give you some vital information. It sounds simple enough, but things are not quite what they seem.

# **DEADLY DESIGN**

CADAVER BEGAN OVER TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO as a simple mapmaker on the ST to create isometric 3D arcade/adventure games. It was named Adventure Level Editor (which sounds a lot more palatable as an acronym: ALE), and has since grown into an extremely powerful utility. ALE makes life easy for the designer because each level is initially created

ALE makes life easy for the designer because each level is initially created as a two-dimensional map, the purpose of which is to define the size of each room (from three by three to 10 by 10 floor tiles) and show the interconnections between them.

Having created the map the designer can then select any room which is instantly converted to a 3D shell. The room is then given its individuality by 'painting' on previously defined background features. At this stage objects can also be selected from a pre-defined library and placed in the room.

This is where ACL comes in. ACL is a language designed by The Bitmap Brothers' own Steve Kelly to control the events in Cadaver and its sequels. The way it deals with objects is very clever, Each object placed in a room has a unique number, and associated with that number is a few lines of ACL code that tell the program exactly how to deal with that object under different circumstances. Can it be opened? Can you insert things in it? And so on.

One of the characteristics that makes Cadaver such an absorbing game is that same objects can be opened to reveal other objects. For instance you might open a cabinet to find a small casket and then open the casket to find a key. In this case both the casket and the key are kept in special Attic rooms until they're needed. These are rooms that are on the map but can't be reached by the player. When an object is found it automatically removes itself from an attic room and places itself as near to its container as it can.

The language is also used to control events in each room, like doors locking and unlocking. Even the central character is not socrosanct. ACL can be used to detect his position, and even push him about, overriding what you are doing with the joystick!

# GALDA THE PA

IFE'S NOT EASY when you're a dwarf. You battle your way through five excruciating monster-infested levels, set off to collect your reward, and what happens? The gits who sent you on that impossible quest seem to have buzzed off, reward and all.

And as if that wasn't insult enough, everybody else in the Charon Arms, where you began your quest, has disappeared too, so you can't even get yourself a free mug of mead for your pains.

So begins the second great adventure of Karadoc The Dwarf, the stunted hero of Cadaver. On arriving at the tavern all you are aware of is that everybody seems to have disappeared in mysterious circumstances, and since they have your reward, you've got to find them.

The Pay-Off is smaller than Cadaver, about twothirds the size, with only four levels of 250 rooms. The Bitmap Brothers reckon that while a good player (with a solution) should take around seven hours to play right through the first game, this one will only take about three hours to replay once solved.

Don't be put off by the smaller size of this module though, it's tougher than Cadaver, so although you

don't need to have completed the latter to play this, it certainly helps.

The first level is set in the Tavern itself, and is just a small collection of rooms which set the scene, but even at this early stage you have to work hard for every clue.

Next, it's on to the village itself. This shows the power of the Cadaver game system, because this level is actually laid out like a true village with streets and houses. Unlike most of the levels in this module and the original game, the Village has a far greater monster-bashing bias, which should relieve those whose brains hurt.

The largest level is the Temple - and whereas the first two use completely new graphic sets, this, and the concluding level in the caves are re-hashes of two of the original Cadaver levels, and are both tough enough to have even the meanest Cadaver players burning the midnight oil.

You have been warned...



# MER. VEGE



AH-HA! ANOTHER REAL PERSON. The Temple Priest may look like a kindly old man, but really he's a bit of a nasty old buffer. On first setting his beady eyes on you he sees you as potential slave material. You, of course, have other ideas.



IN THIS SCREEN YOU'VE JUST
MANAGED to get access to the
temple by getting from one end of
this lane to another. That wasn't
particularly easy because it
involved some careful thought
about the relationship between
gates, levers and a piece of slime.
How's it done?



HO HUM, HERE'S THE SORT OF TEMPTING THING that led so many games players astray in Cadaver. Three levers. You don't know what they do, but you want to find out. Pick a number, one to three, shut your eyes and hope...



You want to get round to the other side so you can get to the keyhole. Trouble is, you could get spiked in a very nasty place. The pit, by the way, contains a couple of those brain creatures. Remember those bonny bouncers?

NOW HERE'S A NASTY ONE.



THE VILLAGE IS
REALLY NICELY
DESIGNED. You
get an
atmospheric
feeling of tiny
cobbled roads
shadowed by
close tiny
buildings built
in an 'olde
worlde' style.
Ooh it warms
yer 'art, it really
does...

COMMENT

THE PROBLEMS WITH LEVELS
DISKS is that, on the whole, what
you get are some new graphics
and more or less the same
gameplay, and very often that's
not enough to justify a new
product. Fortunately Cadaver was
the sort of game that, even if you
managed to complete it, left you
wanting more. So once you've
purchased more in the form of
The Pay-Off, what exactly do you
get for your money? True, there's

the usual new graphics... but that ain't all. What makes this levels disk so worthwhile is that designing the original game seems to have been very much a learning experience for the Bitmap Brothers, with resultant improvements in almost every department becoming apparent here. Players who have completed Cadaver will enjoy the greater variety and continued challenge, while newer players may want to sample more of the first game before tackling this tougher nut.

Laurence Scotford

### THE ONE

**BUILDERLAND**Loriciels

E19.99

DUT

NOW

GRAPHICS

85%

SOUND

78%

PLAYABILITY

80%

VALUE

83%

OVERALL

83%

HEER BONEHEADEDNESS, that's what it is!

Previously the heroes of computer games were quite happy to go wherever your trusty joystick directed them. If you wanted them to climb a ladder, up they'd go. if you needed them to take a swipe at a passing alien, no questions asked. But now there's a new breed of computer hero who's not prepared to tow the line. Never mind your superior experience at getting through video games, he'd much rather go his

own way, and consequently you're always having to get him out of trouble.

You've seen this type before in Image Work's Brat, and in Psygnosis' Lemmings there were dozens of the little blighters. Now, courtesy of Loriciels, there's another cute kid to keep out of trouble.

Our hero walks blindly on through a twodimensional

sideways-scrolling landscape, which unfortunately is rife with hazards. There are pieces missing from pathways, yawning chasms that threaten to swallow our little man, pits of fire, and deadly wildlife that would quite like to have him grilled and served up with barbecue sauce.

Your task is to grab hold of stone blocks and other useful items that have been left littered around (as they often are when local council workmen have been through) and use these to guide our hero safely towards his destination.

Luckily for you, our man will obey two instructions. He can be temporarily stopped in his tracks while you prepare the way for him, and then told to move on once you are ready. That makes things a little easier doesn't it? But hold on a second... all the time the little chap is stood still your bonus time ticks away, losing you valuable points if you manage to reach the end of the level, and if your bonus time expires completely the poor darling simply disappears in a



At certain points on the hero's route there are little houses to be built. If you manage to construct them before he reaches them, he will be transported to a bonus monster screen. In these you directly control the little chap as he uses fireballs to dispatch his adversary.



AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE FIRST LEVEL, Builderland's graphics have that sort of cute naivety common to most platform-based games destined for the console

market. The gameplay isn't as original as it would have been six months ago, but if you like puzzle-orientated platform fun, this could be your cup of tea.

# SULDERLES CELLUS

THE MAP SHOWN AT THE BEGINNING of each level tells you how far you have progressed through the game. Unlike other recent games such as Super Mario World, it is not possible to use the map screen to go directly to particular levels.



THERE ARE PLENTY
OF BONUSES to be
had along the
way. Some of
them, such as
fruit, add
instantly to your
score, while
others are stored
for appropriate
moments.

OMMENT

builderLand is fairly typical of the sort of cute arcade game aimed largely at the console market, but seeing its first release on 16-bit computers. The background and sprite designs follow the recent trend towards a cartoon-like Japanese style, but it has to be said you'll have seen better. The audio similarly is a jaunty console style melody which soon gets a bit too

repetitive, but does, at least, suit the action. The most important aspect is of course, the gameplay. Builderland is very easy to get the hang of, but could have been made even more accessible if there was an option to use the mouse rather than the joystick for selecting elements on the playfield. Brat and Lemmings both use mouse control and are all the better for doing so. Sometimes it is necessary to pluck away a piece of scenery just before it disappears off the side of the screen not easy with a joystick! Unlike some of the more recent games of this ilk, it is very linear: there's only one route and, on the whole, only one way to solve it. That's going to be a cause of frustration for some players, but those that persevere will find enough here to enjoy.

Laurence Scotford

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# THE KILLING GAME SHOW

Psygnosis

PRICE

625.99

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NOW

GRAPHICS

87%

SOUND

70%

PLAYABILITY

88%

VALUE

89%

OVERALL

89%

# CHEKILING SHO

HE MOST EXCITING, violent and thrilling television show in the universe is about to begin and the first showing is tonight. Tune in to channel KGS and witness the thrills 'n' spills of The Killing Game Show. We'll see you there...

...Welcome, we're glad you could join us. If you're new to the KGS, you'll need the low-down before the mayhem begins. First off we have the contestants - known as 'MUGS' - chosen by trotting over to the nearest Death Row and picking a convict. When a suitable contestant is ready he (or she) is surgically altered: firstly we remove the bottom half of the body just above the groin, then we strip the flesh from the bone and replace it with a strong coating of malleable metal. Finally a rotating cannon is bolted onto the side of the body for defence and a protective helmet is fitted for added effect.

Each contestant aims to survive 16 'pits' in an eight-planet system. In fact, survival is the name of the game, since each pit slowly fills with DOLL (believe it or not, Deadly to Organic Life Liquid), and if the contestant doesn't collect all the right objects in time, it's curtains. So, get on the next nitrofueled inter-molecular space ship and join us live at Psygnosis studios!



PSYGNOSIS'
TYPICALLYIMPRESSIVE intro
sets the scene for
the action to
come.











COLLECTING KEYS TO OPEN DOORS and picking up a variety of weapons to make blasting easier is your path to salvation. There is a great assortment of tools (revealed when you shoot a casket), including energy replenishers, water freezers, a triple shot and lasers. The weapon casket has a different appearance on each planet, so it's often a case of blast and hope.



EACH WEAPON HAS A
LIMITED AMOUNT OF
AMMO, so you can't
just switch to autofire and hope to wipe
out everything in
one fell swoop. It
may be a
disappointment to
instant thrill-seekers,
but you have to be
methodical and time
your blasts.









THE GARDEN OF EVE is a brick-layer's nightmare, covered from top to bottom with climbing plants and overgrown moss. Its scenario is typical: there are switches to be switched, plenty of aliens to blast and dodge, and the infamous 'DOLL' to flee from

OMMENT

AS USUAL WITH PSYGNOSIS, the action gets off to a great start with a magnificent intro sequence - and this high standard is maintained throughout. It's a neat combination of shoot 'em up and platform romp, a frantic race against time which will have you sweating on every level. The visual effects are well up to scratch, but the in-game tune is tinny and full of mediocre

samples. The alternative isn't all that hot either: the sound effects mainly consist of beeps and droning noises to signify that you've picked up a key or weapon. The Killing Game Show is an action-packed and beautifully-drawn game which anyone with a taste for frantic arcade action will love.

Julian Watsham

ONE OF THE NICER TOUCHES is a Replay mode which occurs when a life is lost (signified by an 'R' in the corner of the screen). If, however, you don't want to relive the moment of your death, you can always press 'F' to fast forward through the action.

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REVIEW

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GRAPHICS

77%

630/0

PLAYABILITY

73%

71%

OVERALL

68%

THE ONE

# THE COMPUTER GAME

START

WHEN YOU'RE FEELING tired and depressed it's quite common to get a sudden urge to walk out under a moving car. This is inadvisable, as there's a very good chance that you may end up dead. Instead, why not purchase a square-shaped piece of plastic and shove it into one of those useful receptacles known in the trade as a disk drive. It sometimes works.

And now there's a piece of plastic like no other. Yes folks, Viz, home of Finbarr Saunders (source of endless double entendres), and the world's greatest receptacle for bad jokes, has produced its very own computer game.

Top of the bill are Johnny Fartpants,
Buster Gonad and Biffa Bacon, taking part
in a race, staged in the sunny town of
Fulchester, hosted by the world-famous
Roger Mellie and FTV. The course covers
five sections, each littered with obstacles.
Fail and

you're forced to retire with egg on your face: win and you don't even get a prize. But then that's life all over - crap.

DOWNING PINTS is the ideal way to get power to those parts intelligent conversation just can't reach. Beer transforms itself into tokens according to how much liquid Biffa quaffs.



AND THEY'RE OFF. Roger Mellie does the preliminary honours and provides characteristically succinct commentary throughout. As for the other Roger, he's Irrelevant.

BEFORE OUR STONKING THREESOME

can use their weapons to

participate in a bit of race

joystick galvanises Johnny

flatulence scale.

sabotage they need to collect a

few tokens by taking part in the

bonus games. Here, wiggling the

Fartpants' pump into action and

propels our hero magically up the

### VIZ - THE COMIC

HONK!

Dreamed up by Chris and Simon Donald, Graham Dury and Simon Thorp, Viz is a study in how to get rich quick by telling 'botty' jokes. From a debut print run of 150 copies sales have rocketed to over 1,000,000. These days it vies with The Simpsons as a source of associated merchandise. Not only can you get your mitts on a copy of the comic every month, there are also books (The Spunky Parts, The Dog's Bollocks), calendars, T-shirts, alarm clocks and hats to spend your hard-earned readles on and snigger over.



FOR BUSTER. collecting tokens doesn't come easily. Having shipped his gonads to a pancake factory he's forced to exploit their bulbous bulk to forcefully flatten the dough. Unless it's completely flat it doesn't count. His other bonus level is equally painful: it involves bouncing as high as possibly on those unfeasibly giant testes.



### BUSTER GONAD

Despite a disability Which Would loring tears to other pappie's myes, Buster Gonad remains cheerful about the Fate Which has befallen Mis Unfeasibly large testicies, If's their all-PHIPPOSE Versatility that makes PRISON AS useful as a showd arm.

# THE COMPETITORS



### BIFFA BACON

Riffs doesn't need words his uses his fists. Buy him bne Joing s he'll be your friend for life. Spill it and you get a free trip to hospital

### JOHNNY FARTPANTS

Distinguished From an narly age by a letish for pickled aggs; Inhmy's DYDVEH BROWN dirty underpains. are the product of a lifetime's windy bottom - a talent Which has made him famous.



THIS IS RODNEY RIX. He throws bricks. Keep in your lane and you'll avoid him; get hit and the shame is enough to make you lose a life.



DRAWING FROM HIS BOTTOMLESS RESERVE of charm, Parkie attempts to nab you the second you set foot in the park. Use your devastating secret weapon or just leg it pretty sharpish.



WHEN JOHNNY FARTPANTS is under pressure there's only one way out. In average difficulties his weapon number one, a propellant bottom burp, works wonders but when things look really dicey only Johnny's Super Power - a massive curry-induced Mega Pump - can chuff him into the lead.

THANKS TO BUSTER'S wheelbarrow, his unfeasible physique is transformed into a model of streamlined efficiency. Gonad is also entitled to use Plum Power - a personalised nut bounce.



You get a lot with a copy of Viz: jokes, fat slags, a bagful of tips and plenty of change out of a fiver. The computer game isn't such good value for money. £19.99 buys you a standard obstacle course, a few bonus screens and a handful of jokes. The unusual bonus games are good fun and the graphics accurately capture the characteristics of the comic, but underneath the glossy exterior

there lurks nothing more elaborate than a basic chase game. Hotfooting it around the Fulchester sights is fun for a while but for non-fans there just isn't enough substance to justify the price. Viz fanatics could spend a couple of hours or so chortling at Roger Mellie's subtle asides (though after the third reading they do tend to grate a bit) but even they might be disappointed at the relatively small role played by most of Fulchester's stalwarts: where's Billy The Fish? As a game all this is most likely to appeal to exactly the sort of people who aren't allowed to buy it - kids. Adults should consider sticking their nose in a Viz book instead.

Kati Hamza



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simulation strategy in

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REVIEW

# CHUCK

Core Design

PRICE

£24.99

NOW

GRAPHICS

91%

SOUND

91%

PLAYABILITY

87%

VALUE

90%

OVERALL

91%



oger Booger! That's just the sort of noise you'd would expect to hear from Core Designs' new character. Chuck Rock is set in the middle of the stone-age when little birds are used for clothes pegs and the invention of the wheel has just been announced on the news.

Chuck has a dilemma, his lovely, sexy and, lets face it, quite nice wife Ophelia has just been wifenapped by the evil character Gary Gritter. The scene is set, Ophelia is hanging out the washing, while Gary is snooping around in the bushes, quickly Gary dashes out

and hits Ophelia on the head with his club, she is then dragged off with Gary pulling on her hair.

Meanwhile our hero Chuck is indoors watching the news, he senses something is going on so he quickly rushes out (forgetting he has no clothes on) and looks around, fortunately a bird saw what happened and informs Chuck of the direction that Gary disappeared in, quick as a flash Chuck goes to the nearest bush and makes a home-made loin cloth and sets off to the rescue...

CHUCK BEGINS HIS SEARCH for Ophelia. Level One is set in the jungle with little orange dino's prowling around and if you're not careful they'll whip out a large hammer and attempt to smack you on the head with it! Not all dino's are violent towards you, some even help you, for example the nice croc' aimlessly lying on a rock is just waiting for you to come along with a rock, jump on it's tail and throw the rock onto his head, this results in you being catapulted through the air and ending up on a ledge somewhere. If you're really lucky you could get a ride on the back of a great dino' which plods it's way through the lake and drops you off at the other side (very nice!).

**SWIMMING MAY** BE one of Chuck's many talents, but he's not that good at holding his breath: If he's held down for too long he'll start thrashing about desperately trying to get to the surface, Some wonderful things have been expressed in this section, just have a look at swordfish after you've kicked him in the nose.

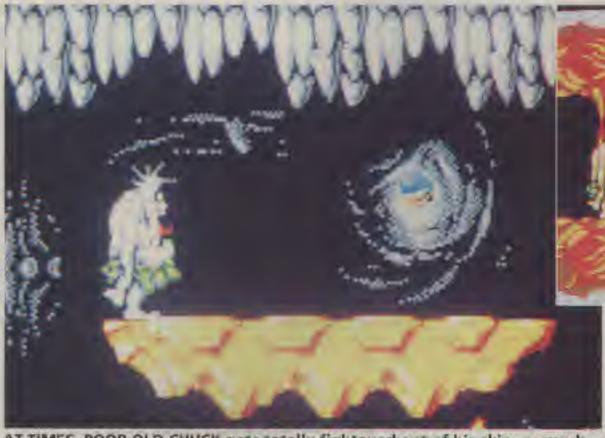


CHUCK'S HARDLY A HUMAN
DYNAMO (in fact, he's hardly a
human anything!), so when he's too
lazy to swim, he opts for the easy
route by taking a ride on the back of
a whale.

ONCE INSIDE THE DINO' you're treated

intestinal graphics there's even bouncing hearts skipping about to cause you trouble.

atmospherically-



AT TIMES, POOR OLD CHUCK gets totally fightened out of his skin, so much so that he literally turns white and his hair sticks up everywhere, a very weird sight indeed! After a while he pulls himself together and eventually gets his old colour back.



IN THE ICE AGE it's cold... to say the least - you can tell by the hot air coming out of Chuck's mouth as he wanders around freezing his feet off. One good thing about the setting though, is that you'll come across loads of mammoths to help you on your way, some catapult you through the air and some suck you up and blow you out, but whichever one you get they all help in one way or another.

THE GRAVEYARD OF THE DINOSAURS is full of,.. dead dinosaurs! In order to help you in this level, snakes turn into bridges when they'rebelly-butted. Some of the dino's turn into angels or devils after they've been belly-butted, depending on their mood, so watch out, 'cos the devil will chase you.





AT THE END OF THE DINO'S GRAVEYARD you have to enter the mouth of a great dino' which is lying down having a breather. Once you're inside, his (or her) teeth fall out - yet another nice touch.

# COMMENT

AS SOON AS YOU SEE CHUCK and the rest of the cast strumming away on their electric guitars accompanied by a 'ROCK' track, you'll instantly realise that humor is the key element of this game. The main character is very well animated with over 40 frames which include movements such as walking (obviously), jumping, picking up and

throwing a rock - and even being

blown across the screen by a

mammoth! Sonically, the player is treated to a choice of either in-game effects or music: it doesn't really matter which one you pick, as both are equally as good, the music being along the same lines as the aforementioned intro track (which is the sort of thing anyone would want to boogle on down to) while some of the effects have to be heard to be believed. It's obvious that Core Design has spent a great deal of time on the thought, design and general preparation of this game - so the player is going to have to put a little in too: for example, at one point you come to what seems like an impossibly large gap and the only things to be seen are a Pterodactyl nodding off and an unreachable ridge what do you do? Simple, you belly-butt the Pterodactyl and he'll whizz you across the gap while clutching onto your locks (Ouch!). With the program containing over 500 frames of animation in total, there are plenty of 'baddies' to 'belly-butt' or 'fly-kick' with your size 14 feet, ranging from 'blue-waddlers' to 'flying bone-birds'. If you don't take your computer too seriously, you fancy a great laugh and lashings of stomping, puzzle-solving and general fun and chaos, then this is definitely the game for you. A must for anyone's collection.

Juilan Watsham

### CRYSTALS OF ARBOREA

Silmarils

PRICE

E24.99

NOW NOW

GRAPHICS

88%

SOUND

86%

PLAYABILITY

84%

VALUE

81%

OVERALL

86%

### S JAREL, THE PRINCE OF SHAM-NIRS, you and your six campanions have to explore Arborea, find the four crystals that symbolise the four elements from which the Crystal world has been created: Earth, Sky, Water, and Fire and return them to their respective towers.

The scenario for this impressive
French 3D role-playing game reads,
typically, like the back-cover blurb for
most pulp fantasy. Gods created the
world, to be the home of mortal
creatures. Only three different
races lived there for many years:
Orcs, tireless workers; Sham-nirs,
Artisan Elves; and Black Elves, the
rulers of the Crystal world.

Then, one day, Morgoth, a fallen angel, cursed the Gods who had banished him from heaven and swore revenge. He swept across the Crystal world bringing discord and violence. He corrupted the Orcs and Black Elves, turning them against the Sham-nirs.

The Gods were dismayed at the anarchy everywhere, so they drowned the world in their fury, leaving only Arborea as the last resting place for the crystals above the sea.

ONCE IN 3D MODE you see out of Jarel's eyes, while the rest of your group head for their initial destination from the 2D map: If they come across any enemies you will either have to fight or flee.

# CRYSTALS ARBOREA





CREATING CHARACTERS is easy. Just pick the appropriate profession, allocate points to the list of statistics and you're away. There are also options to load existing characters, check maps, or review instructions.



IN COMBAT, the action switches to a bird's-eye view. It's simple to manoeuvre the party for attack, but you'll need plenty of power as well as wits if you are to avoid becoming so much monster fodder.



AS YOU CAN EITHER MOVE the whole group together or as individuals, it's possible to switch between your six companions to check on their locations - . However, trying to keep track of the group whilst in 3D Mode is difficult without making frequent references to the map.

OMMENT

FROM THE MOMENT that the intro-sequence begins (showing the four crystals flying through the air and landing in Arborea) you can tell that this one has been polished 'til it shines. Then, once into the game proper, the player finds a simple and friendly front-end that doesn't get in the way of the atmosphere. The characters and other creatures are well-drawn and accompanied by some superb, realistic looking,

background artwork. Simarils hasn't let itself down on the sound front either: both the intro and game-over music have a very mediaeval feel which complements the action perfectly. The sound effects are equally impressive, with suitable grunts during combat, and even the odd bird tweet! If you're prepared to spend some time establishing exactly how to begin (there are moments when the correct action is far from obvious), you may find Crystals Of Arborea rich and rewarding.

Julian Watsham



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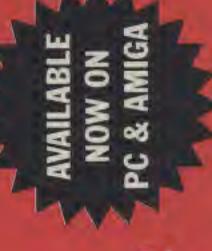
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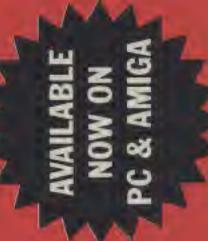
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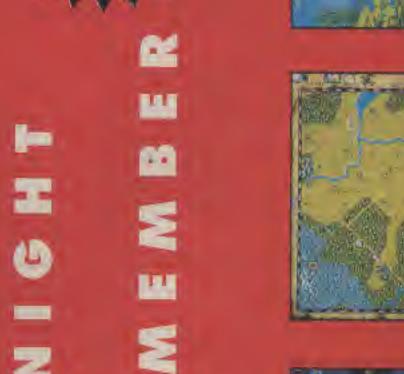
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Knights and layes, wanted and depty of the caust

















Vietnamese.

NAM 1965-1975

Domark

PRICE

OUT NOW

GRAPHICS

81%

SOUND

72%

PLAYABILITY

84%

VALUE

77%

OVERALL

83%



THIS IS WHERE the buck stops and decisions start. As President and Commander-in-Chief of the US armed forces, it's your job to oversee the course of the war. The opposing poles of public opinion and military support are represented by the newspaper on the left - not always a reliable source of information, but an excellent guide to your



HE COMMUNISTS HAVE LAUNCHED a two-

pronged assault on South Vietnam: using North

Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong guerillas to

infiltrate enemy territory, while their agents plant the seeds of popular rebellion in the minds of the South

That, in a nutshell, is the problem facing you at the

The program incorporates two distinct styles of play,

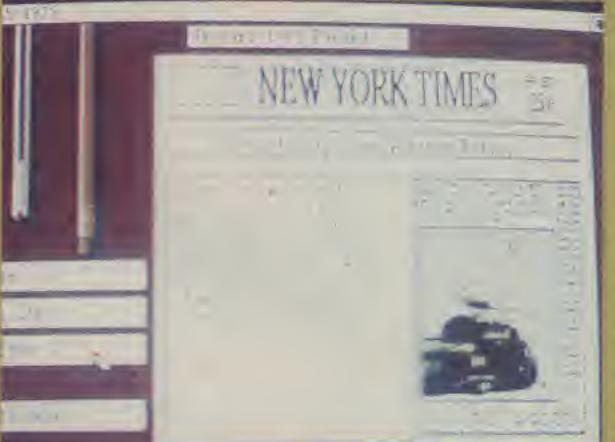
head-first into the thick of three battle scenarios. Use your imagination to rustle up a little reds under the

The game is also split into two other categories: long

beginning of this simulation of military and political strategy in South East Asia in the decade beginning

allowing the player to either step straight into the shoes of Presidents Johnson or Nixon, or to jump

bed' parangia and you could almost be there.



ONE OF THE GAME'S REST TOUCHES is its newspaper-style gauge of public opinion. What the man on the Cincinnati Omnibus thinks about you is crucial to your success or failure, and the broadsheets both reflect and shape his opinions. Examining the papers won't tell you much that you don't already know - they're mainly packed with leaked details of the units you've deployed - but it will give you a clue as to whether or not you're over-committing troops and will soon tell you if the war is unpopular at home.



**OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS** form the crux of your decision making and give you a more realistic appraisal of how the war is going. Files reveal detailed maps, allow you to commission financial or military aid for South Vietnam. commit or withdraw troops. commit reserve forces and air. support to the war, or examine your current status. If you commit troops you're presented with this screen, detailing the individual units available for deployment Sensible military strategists initially aim to contain the communist advance, which means a couple of units deployed in each of the four Corps areas on the map. For extra mobility and strength, some units can be alf-mobilised.

# THE SEEDS OF BATTLE

WHEN THE FIRST AMERICAN TROOPS set foot in Vietnam it was the country's third armed occupation in 100 years.

Vietnam had first been conquered by the French in 1858 and then occupied by Japan during the Second World War. The bitter fighting which subsequently broke out in late 1945 between the Japanese and French-supported regime of Bo Dai and the communist Vietminh

(Independence) League led by Ho Chi Minh finally culminated in the 1954 Geneva Conference. This conference led to a compromise solution to the country's difficulties by drawing a line along the 17th parallel latitude line and dividing the nation in two: communist North Vietnam with its capital at Hanoi and pro-western South Vietnam with its capital at Saigon.

The Conference marked the beginning of 20 years of trouble. In the south, the communist Viet Cong, supported by China and North Vietnam, attempted to seize power. In line with America's strong anti-communist views, the early 1960s saw President Kennedy beginning to send advisors and special forces to support the South Vietnamese.

Then in 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats allegedly attacked two American destroyers. Congress granted President Johnson emergency war powers, and he sent in the first regular troops. The rest, as they say, is history... and short.

Choose a long game and you find yourself in the Oval Office in either 1964 (Johnson) or 1968 (Nixon). As guardian of the free world, it is your burden to plan a successful military campaign and quash the communist millions infiltrating South Vietnam (and, by extension, the world). Not only this, you also have to conduct the war in a way that keeps the decent. folks of America content: this basically means that you have to carefully control the level of commitment to South Vietnam, both military and economic.

The shorter version of the game allows you to relive (via icons and a map display) the three major campaigns of the war; the Tet Offensive, the defence of the Khe Sanh plateau and the 1975 Offensive.

This performs a dual function, allowing you to get used to the tectical military aspects of the action before tackling the long version, or working as a game in its own right for those who can't take the politics.



EACH OF THE CORPS AREAS can be accessed to reveal a detailed battlefield plan. Here, information is gleaned by simply clicking on the icons. Most unit commanders will make intelligent decisions by themselves, but you can averride those and dictate the course of the battle yourself.



ACHIEVE VICTORY and you could change the course of the American cinema - all the films will be stories of glory. The wounded will come home as heroes and Nixon might just survive the Watergate scandal. Fare badly though, and public opinion might force you into an ignominious withdrawal.



A SUMMARY REPORT displays your current status as two graphs and a statistics panel. The top graph is the most difficult in which to achieve success; the level of your commitment is usually inversely proportional to your popularity unless you win battles. The lower graph reveals this military success or failure in terms of the number of Americans killed against the number of enemy losses. A good pacification percentage means that more South Vietnamese citizens favour the American cause.



SHOULD YOU WANT A LITTLE HELP with decision making, the President's little helpers are on hand to dish out advice. The PR representative and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are just a visual representation of what you read in the newspapers: if you can afford to throw more men into the theatre of operations and public opinion can stand it, you're laughing. If not, it's time to kiss goodbye to high office and arrange for a worldwide lecturing tour.



THE MAIN MAP SCREEN reveals much of South East Asia, including the Whole of South Vietnam. It also shows the relative positions of the four Corps spread out along the eastern coastline.

THE STRATEGY FAN who craves a smattering of arcade sequences to balance their tactical manoeuvres is going to be disappointed here. This is a shame, as once you're accustomed to the erudite style of the action, it's a lot of fun just messing about with the history. This is the major appeal: because it's been such a well-publicised war, you can't resist the temptation to shape its events in

your own way, often at odds with what actually happened. This sense of remaking history could have been enhanced, had the presentation been better: there are too few still graphics screens and not enough variety in the animations to successfully evoke the period's atmosphere. Nor is this helped by the disk handling: every command you execute results in disk accessing, while the buffer on commands is long enough to prove irksome. Apart from these minor drawbacks, 'Nam is beautifully executed: what there is of the presentation graphics is excellent, and the (sparse) sound effects enhance your enjoyment without detracting from the action. A nice touch is the appearance of variety cleverly worked into the newspaper reports: all are written in a similar style, but the trite phrases are slightly changed. This is true of the game as a whole: it looks quite simple, but there are subtleties there which don't become apparent until you're well into a campaign. 'Nam is a challenge that anyone with an interest in strategy or the manipulation of history should take up.

Gordon Houghton



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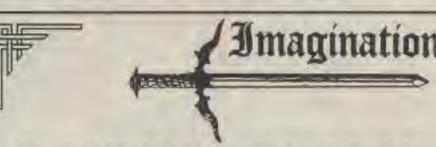
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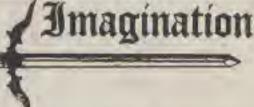
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# PREDATOR 28 THE HUNT CONTINUES...

T'S 1997, IT'S LOS ANGELES and it's the hottest summer on record. Drug barons are fighting to gain control of the streets, but in their way stands the L.A. constabulary and - more to the point - you, Mike Harrigan, a Cop with an attitude.

There's an added problem though, the drug pushers aren't the only ones who want to take over.
Remember the armour-plated alien giant that Arnie finished off in the South American jungle? Well, his family's in town - and they're itching for a fight.

Any one of these nearindestructible monsters is far more dangerous than all of the drug barons put together: they're born killing machines who can manoeuvre with great speed and agility - even machine gun fire has little effect on its technologicallyadvanced armour plating.

Worse still, their attitude matches their build, as they hunt and kill humans for sport, collecting souvenirs in the form of skulls and bones.

As if you hadn't got enough on your plate already, you have to cooperate with the F.B.I. officers who are assigned to the case. This official intervention is nothing new though, as a 'top secret' report reveals that the Predators were first discovered around 700 years ago, but their existence has been kept a secret ever since.

But enough of this history lesson. Get out there and start cleaning those streets...

THE PREDATORS CAN'T BE SEEN in the first two levels, because they cunningly camouflage themselves to blend in with background. However, even when invisible, the monsters can still be injured.



action scrolls from right to left, beginning on the streets of L.A, moving through the subway and stopping off at a penthouse apartment before finally reaching the slaughter house. Each of these locations is teeming with drug barons, so you have to keep that mouse finger clicking.

PREDATOR 2 THE HUNT CONTINUES Image Works

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OUY

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THERE ARE FIVE WEAPONS for Harrigan to wield, from a Magnum Automatic to the M-203 Grenade Launcher which wipes out a whole screen's worth of bad guys. EQUIPPED WITH A
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and more, your
enemy has only
one thing to
worry about...



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BE CAREFUL TO **AVOID** shooting any of the injured police officers or innocent bystanders as this does great damage to your credibility, It is a good idea, however, to make sure that you hit every ammunition pick-up you come across you'll need them.



THE CHAP BEHIND THE CHAOS is practically invincible, but when injured he flees from the scene to recuperate.



THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE SECTION
allows the player to shoot anything
and everything. Shooting the boxes
on the wall rewards you with a free
shower, add a touch of nitrogen to
this and your enemy's vision is
interfered with. The lights can also
be smashed to add to the confusion.
The insulation tanks which contain
Alien-style creatures can also be
shot to reveal extra ammunition.



PREDATOR CASUALLY PICKS UP an F.B.I. agent and decides to amputate his head! Not a pretty sight, but being in the slaughter house, what else do you expect?

# COMMENT

NEITHER PREDATOR MOVIE has been shy about splashing the claret around – and Image Works has seen no reason to change things here: explosions abound and gore-fans will delight at the sight of blood squirting from the F.B.I agent when his head's ripped off! First impressions of Predator 2 will take you back to the Operation Wolf days of blasting everything in sight,

from people to ammo cartridges, however it doesn't have that certain 'x factor' which brought Ocean's conversion such acclaim. Visually, it's nicely polished, with the well-animated sprites working well with the atmospheric backdrops, while the whole look is rounded off by some good intermission screens. Also, the 'wire-frame' depiction of Harrigan works quite well, as it doesn't block your view of what's trying to kill you. The sound effects and music are nothing special (die, and you're treated to what sounds like a firework going off!), but at least you have the option to get rid of the tune if you so desire. Basically though, Predator 2's problems don't lie in its execution - the problem is that there's not enough variety. Anything would have been a help: the occasional puzzle to solve or a solid beat 'em up section when Harrigan eventually comes face to face with a Predator. Big fans of the movie may get some kicks here, but it's not going to do a great deal for the casual player.

Julian Watsham

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NBS ... HERE TODAY ... AND HERE TOMORROW TOO

Following last month's look at post-war manouevring, Matthew Stibbe goes back in time a little to examine the strategic relevance of the Second World War.

o begin at the beginning, World War II was an aggressive war waged on unwilling defenders. Despite Chamberlain's claim of 'peace in our time' the Munich agreement of September 1938 failed completely to slate Hitler's appetite for conquest.

Encouraged by the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact, Hitler invaded Poland on September 1st 1939, thus bringing France and England into the war, and then struck France through the low countries on May 10th 1940.

Thus began the great conflict. This brief overview will look at the evolution of strategy at the highest level on both sides of the war in Europe.

The fact that the Germans took the initiative through aggression gave their armies an advantage. They capitalised on the surprise and momentum they could gain by waging an aggressive high speed war (or 'Blitzkrieg').

Using this strategy at its most effective, an outnumbered force could concentrate overwhelming forces at a given point, and thus out-manoeuvre and out-fight local opposition. The aim, however, was not to win the battle, but to transcend the battlefield by going for the jugular.

In many ways the techniques of this warfare were new – armoured columns, parachutists, close air support and so on – but the aim was not. It was the same method that the Germans had used in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 when they defeated the French army on the field of battle, and then raced to Paris to lay siege to it. The same would have happened – albeit on a grander scale – in World War I, but for the dogged resistance of their enemies.

The British and French on the other hand had arguably learned the wrong lessons from the Great War, and had adopted an essentially defensive mentality. In 1939, this mentality served only the make a strong crust through which the Germans could easily punch a hole. Holland was overrun in five days, Belgium in two weeks, and the Blitzkrieg was launched against France on May 16th 1940, a day after the Dutch capitulation.

The German forces entered Paris unopposed on June 14 and forced France to sign an armistice at Compiegne on

# THE ART OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN WWII

June 22, 1940, having forced a British withdrawal from Dunkirk. This lightning war was the model for later German offensives in the Balkans, North Africa, and, on a much larger scale, in Russia.

On the other side, the defensiveness and un-modernity displayed in France was slowly transformed. In many ways the battle of El-Alamein symbolised a turning point. It was the first time that the British had defeated the Germans anywhere. Churchill said of it: "Before El Alamein we never won a battle, and afterwards we never lost one."

Montgomery was reinforced with men and US equipment, while most German transports heading for Benghazi in Libya were sunk by British ships and planes. In other words it was a fight on British terms. The Allies were wedged between the sea and the Quattara depression — the Germans could not outflank them.

On the night of October 23rd 1942, Montgomery began a five-hour, thousand-gun artillery barrage. Then the British columns moved forward to cut a deep salient into the German lines. The Germans and Italians held out for two weeks and then began a fighting retreat back to Libya.

On November 8th 1942, US and British forces landed in strength in French Morocco and Algeria in an operation called 'Torch'. Timed to coincide with Montgomery's offensive, the operation placed them in a position to attack Rommel's Afrika Korps from the West. This was a 'pincer' movement executed on a grand scale.

# STORM ACROSS EUROPE (SSI)

I'm supposed to be revising for my finals (and finishing this article) but instead I've spent the last four hours playing this game.

Storm Across Europe is a grand strategy simulation of World War II in Europe. Someone has to play the Germans, but the computer or other players can take the parts of Russia and the Allies. The game involves both directing production and lighting a war in the air, at sea, and on land.

Essentially, this concentrates on land-based combat, but it also includes elements such as strategic bombing, submarine warfare, V-2s, atomic bombs, and research.

The military details are abstracted — that is, it's a game of armies and air forces, rather than brigades and squadrons. It loses nothing for this though — if anything it is more accessible because it is abstracted from the technical details of warmaking.

However, there is perhaps a danger that it is also a little

abstracted from the painful realities of warfare too. It's interesting to try to follow historical circumstances — for instance invading Russia, bombing England and so on.

What's most surprising though, is that despite the array of opportunities that exist for varying the course of history, history itself seems the best guide for decisions. It's hard to decide whether this is due to the game designers constraining the variables to make it so, or whether I automatically adopt a historical approach, or again whether what actually happened was the most predictable and logical course of events.

It uses a mouse-based interface (with the keyboard as a fallback), but its origins in the pre-mouse world are evident, as the interface sometimes seems over-complex and restrictive.

On the plus side, it's still possible to get through a game in a few hours, although an early defeat is quite common.

I hesitate to say this game is a must for all budding Hitlers, but it certainly is required playing for any proto-Churchills out there. As for neo-Stalins, I would only point to the game variable called 'Stalin's sanity' and say no more.

UMS II (Rainbird)

his is the successor to the successful Universal Military Sometawar, published way back in the dark ages when Rainbird was owned by MicroProse. Both games were developed by Ezra Sidran.

The original UMS was a tactical battle simulator, which used a three-dimensional map to show the progress of battle. The second game's subtitle 'Nations at War' hints at its breadth. It aims to be a TOTAL military simulator.

Using the Planet Editor (not included in the package, but word is that it will be available as an upgrade or at a nominal price to registered users) it's possible to simulate any conflict on any planet in almost infinite detail.

In practice, the three scenarios (or should I say worlds) provided with the game should occupy any player. They are: Overlord (D-Day 1944), Alexander the Great and the wars of Napoleon (by the way, there's also a Desert Storm scenario which is available direct from Intergalactic).

Although the game includes elements such as taxation and production, most of the player's attention is devoted to military manoeuvres. These take place at one of five zoom levels from orbital to divisional. Units can be naval amphibious, ground based, airborne and even orbital.

Another good point is that the game is totally configurable: the author likens it to a military spreadsheet where every variable is accessible and open to user modification.

On the face of it, this is a game for any serious wargamer. However, the enormous detail or representing the entire globe down to a scale of seven square kilometers has severely affected the game 5 performance. It uses a technique called virtual memory which involves a great deal of disk activity. This is a nuisance.

A second criticism must be of the user interface. Considering it is such a complicated game, the user interface is surprisingly good, but some apparently simple things still seem to take a long time to do, or require arcane commands to achieve. Again this is not a major complaint, but it does mean that the game requires a considerable amount of time to learn thoroughly. It also requires a lot of pulience.

And one last gripe. Frankly, the manual isn't up to the standard of other games from the MicroProse stable, which doesn't help the learning process.

Despite all of these criticisms, UMS II is an outstanding technical achievement, UMS III will probably require a Cray to run properly.

The use of air power, and especially airborne troops was one of the important changes in the nature of warfare that took place in WWII. The allies used airborne troops in large numbers, for example in Normandy, or in Operation Market Garden.

The first use of parachutists on a large scale was, predictably, by the Germans. On May 20, 1941, in a powerful display of offensive air tactics, 3,500 German paratroopers were dropped on the strategic island of Crete. Most were killed, but a second wave of 3,000 quickly captured key defenses and overwhelmed the remaining British troops.

Hitler now had in his possession a strategic Mediterranean island for the dispatch of reinforcements and supplies to his desert troops in North Africa, which were poised for an assault against Egypt and the Suez Canal.

This is too vast a subject to cover even in summary in such a short article. What I have tried to do is set the games I have reviewed this month into a context, and to point out some of the salient strategic issues. Playing these games is better than a history lesson, because they show the 'why' as much as the 'what' or 'when.'

There are some excellent histories of the war, amongst which Max Hastings' books rank very highly, but above all Churchill's war memoirs are invaluable and fascinating.

• In the next article, I hope to cover the war at sea, in the pacific, and on the Russian Front.

# DESERT RATS, VULCAN, ARNHEM and FRONTLINE

the desert war in North Africa (El Alamein), the Tunisian campaigns (Kessarine Pass) and Operation Market Garden (the famous 'Bridge too Far') respectively.

Vulcan and Arnhom are based on the same game system with additions for air power and paratroops as appropriate. All offer several scenarios ranging from 30-minute battle simulations, to three- or four-campaign games covering months or even years of real time, Within the limiting context of the gameplay system, each game conveys the essential nature of its subject very well.

There are differences though, Arnhem brings a sense of argency, as armoured units race to reinforce paratroops dropped behind enemy lines, while Vulcan simulates very well the problems that faced a fresh and well-equipped, but unseasoned, American army in their first encounter with the utterly professional Germans. There is always a sense with Vulcan that victory is inevitable for the allies — but at what cost.

Desert Rats, on the other hand, is a game of supply and manoeuvre, with the Axis and Allied players like two snakes coiled up together along the const road and struggling to see who suffocates first. In many ways the Vulcan campaign is the most interesting — mainly as a precursor to the European campaigns of 1944 and 1945. In any case all three games are interesting divisional level simulations that capture a historical moment well, without the sometimes awkward detail of SSI games.

Frontline is a different game completely from the other CCS onerings. In the first place it is a squad level game — in other words it deals with tactical decisions made at the lowest level of an organised army. Secondly, it's been written to use a mouse-based interface. Of all the wargames reviewed here, this has the best user interface.

It provides a number of scenarios — from the D-Day glider landing at Pegasus Bridge, to the assault on Monte Cassino in Italy. It takes into account fire support, close combat, height, lines of sight and leadership among other things.

In other words, this is a very accurate simulation. It manages a lot of the tedious work that stops many board games on the same subject being more enjoyable, but there is still a lot of detail to absorb. The nearest equivalent to it is possibly Sniper! on the Compuserve electronic network, where the 'enemy' is another player accessing the game by modern.

I recommend this one, if only because it provides a welcome relief from the tide of division, corps and army level games that seem the norm in strategy gaming.

Imagine a world just beyond our own. A world where graphics, music and animation spring to life from the minds of programmers. A world that pushes the ST to its limits. You are not imagining, you have just entered...

# DEMOS DOMAIN

Balls! OR VECTORBOBS as they're known. This month's in-thing is to have lots of shiny balls rotating around each other against a backdrop of stars. Last month it was fractals and the month before we had all those psychedelic blurs. How do all the programmers manage to come up with the same ideas at the same time?

Still, while the graphical artistes run around after each other, the musicians are still managing to create original works. This month has seen a tidal wave of good sounds arrive on our doorstep, everything from moody Jarre-esque type tunes to a good of heavy metal thrash.

As well as the Pick Of The Month, we want to encourage new talent to emerge into the field of Demos/PD so as of next month we will be awarding the Amateur Demo Of The Month honour to something creative (graphical, musical or whatever) from one of our readers. Let your creativity flow...

· SEURE: BUILDING



XENON 2, THREE HOODED EVIL-DOERS and a flat-head. What a delightful combination.





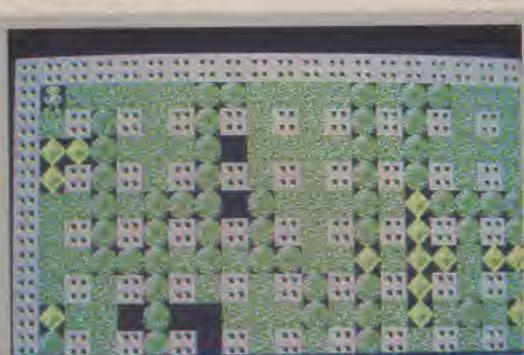
# MEGADEMOS

FISH 'N' CHIPS IS FIRST IN
LINE, an offering containing a
competent collection of
demos, including 3D vectors,
parallax scrolling, sprites-aplenty, and a little something
that you'll have to see for
yourself called Pixel Perfect.
It also has a great reset
demo.

The Wild Boys again make an appearance with a nameless little number. Balls fly around, graphics reflect and there are two versions of the Twister - all of this and a

rendition of

Megablast too... coo!
Original menu of the month goes to the Black Cats' Yo Demo with their Xenon 2 piece. Guide the ship through the hordes of aliens until you reach each building. Inside each are various graphical and audio delights.



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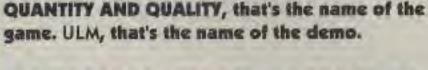
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# GAMES

BOULDER DASH IS BACK, YAAAYYY! Though this time it's under a different guise. Doug 2's the name, but the game's still the same and it's just as addictive with 10 levels of rock-pushing mayhem to keep you busy for quite a while.

Goblem is yet another reincarnation of PacMan, except now he's green (PacTurtle perhaps?). As always you have the task of running around a maze and gobbling up little pills avoiding the big bad ghosts (you don't really need to be told this do you?). Nothing special but if you're into nostalgia...

Hypnotic-Land is similar to Klax in one respect. The basic idea of dropping things off the edge of a conveyer belt is there, but instead of forming stacks, you have to guide coloured balls into the correct containers. Apart from the text being in Spanish, there isn't much to fault it, although things do get slightly too much to handle by level four.



# PICK OF THE MONTH ULM MEGA DEMO

A VERITABLY JAM-PACKED, bag-busting, mammoth collection of goodies in this one. To start with, the intro is full-screen, the main menu is made up of a fully playable 'game' in which you guide a Griffin around a level of platforms and doors, each hiding a demo behind it and the demos are all top-notch quality. Upon opening a door, a sampled voice asks you to 'Please wait' - before being greeted by a rendition of some weird but wonderful music. The collection of demos is huge enough to fill

Wembley stadium, with something to cater for all tastes: full-screen scrollers, objects flying around the screen, music to get your granny jumping and plenty more. A megademo for all seasons.

## WHERE TO GET 'EM

Pick of the month -ULM Mega Demo (disk DGM174), Wild Boys (disk DGM16Q), Fish 'n' Chips Mega Demo (disk DGM165), Trans Beauce Demo (disk DGM166), TBC's Yo Demo (disk DGM149). are available from: TRUST PD 18 The Park Southowram Halifax HX3 9QY

Doug 2 (disk GBU65), Metallica (disk GD1181), Goblem (disk GL12), Hypnotic Land (disk GL14). Goodmans 132 Gunville Road, Newport, Isle Of Wight PO30 5LH

# SOUND

METALLICA MIGHT NOT BE TO YOUR PARTICULAR TASTE, but head thrashers are in for a real treat when Goodman PD's sampled version of Call of Ktulu comes blasting out of your speakers. Digitised pictures of the band in full swing are displayed throughout and the whole thing is very long, very metal and very brilliant.

Meanwhile, The Wild Boys make yet another appearance with a music

disk crammed full of great tunes:
Jugipiisi, Heavy Metal, Alfa,
Jolly Jog, Techno, Aaarss,
Crockett's Theme and
Zowee are the particular
delights to choose from (and
don't worry. They sound
better than their names
suggest). Crockett's Theme is
the best of the bunch, but all
are top quality.



Four levels of difficulty will help you to learn quickly - and optional autopilot landings will allow you to concentrate on airborne action. The controls are simple, effective, and easy

to remember. It is a great flight sim for beginners and experts alike.



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attack being thrown at you.



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the hottest seat of them all - Take a look for yourself.



F15 Strike Eagle II follows F19 and Gunship into the front line. The latest and gra



# AIR SUPERIORITY

The F15 Strike Eagle is the latest in a long line of F15 Eagles, whose development began in the mid '60s. Originally conceived as an ultrapowerful, ultra-fast air-superiority fighter, the design has developed into an air-superiority fighter with ground-attack capabilities.

The F15 Strike Eagle is one of the fastest, most manoeuvrable, and most powerful military aircraft in the world. It has the capacity to carry the latest airto-air and air-to-ground armament in addition to its 20mm cannon.

The latest version of the Strike Eagle is equipped with a sophisticated zoom FLIR/TV/Laser target tracking system that allows the pilot to see close up views (either TV or thermal) of the target at all times.



#EDPROSE

mest from MicroProse will soon be available for Commodore Amiga and Alari ST.

### ARCADES

John Cook may not have two coins to rub together, but he still somehow manages to be the first down to his local arcade to witness the arrival of the latest coin-ops.

# R360

HEARD OF THE R<sub>3</sub>60? Then, baby, you haven't lived, because forget about Virtual Reality, what the R360 delivers is the greatest sensory overload you are ever likely to get without taking your trousers off.

Developed by those terribly clever Japanese people (Sega) this is a unit that will turn your whole idea of what a coin-op is upside-down, Literally

You sit yourself in the unit and you realise immediately that this is something different. For a start the thing looks like that brain-washing jobbie that Joe 90 used to use. Anything could happen in the next half hour, eh? Very Sixties. In fact, before you step into the globe, you know that something dramatic is going to happen, because of the major product liability notice prominently placed at the entrance to the thing. Very Nineties.

No-one under 1.30m tall. Dwarves barred. No heart conditions. No intoxicated persons. No pregnant women. No-one with high or low blood pressure. No-one who has been advised against strenuous activity and finally, no-one who has any mental or physical problems. That's The One's staff out for a start. Still, I lied about my height and slipped through.

Once inside the unit, a U-shaped yoke comes down over your chest, to which you attach a couple of side belts, then tighten the whole thing up with a handbrake lever placed by your right hand. Claustrophobic? Moi?

Now the action starts, and it's the familiar G-Loc/shoot down those planes scenario. First you have the gentle take off, and you begin composing the letter to get your money back. But suddenly... haaaayyyyy!!!!

You know the way that in G-Loc you get that queasy sensation of movement? Well, this is all fine if you have two feet on the ground, but after you've gone around for the third time in the R360, you know why fighter pilots don't have a large breakfast before they take off.

Positive G, Negative G, upside down, 90 degrees to the floor, a session in the R360 leaves you feeling like a sock in an empty tumble drier, but what an experience!!! Presently, the only R360 I know of in the country is at Funland, Luna Park, in the Trocadero Complex, in Piccadilly Circus, London, which itself is probably the best arcade in the country with no fruit machines or onearmed bandits, just row upon row of the latest vids, plus bumper cars and a few novelty rides. Not only can you ride the R360 there (at £3 a throw, alas, but there again, it does cost over £70,000 to buy!) but play four player Super Monaco and Big Run, something the average arcade just can't compete with. Well worth a visit if you're in the Capital.



# PHOTOSTAR

TAKING PASSPORT PHOTOS will never be the same again, after this new innovation in photobooth technology. The Photostar. Video Matting technology can not only put you

next to a famous celeb (I'm looking for John Major's brain in this snap) but also do sensible stuff like preview an ordinary snap before you have it printed. Nice dry colour prints produced in a guaranteed number of seconds, which count down before your very eyes. All this and Kylie tool Check it





THE ONE

# GROWL

## Taito

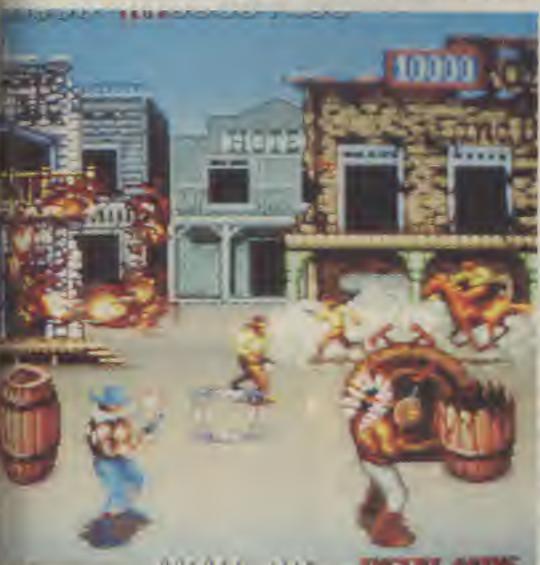
ANOTHER FOUR-PLAYER BEAT 'EM UP that has become a bit topical because many of the hordes of enemies have tea towels wrapped around their heads. Other than that, there's precious little to recommend it. If you must play a beat 'em up, play Final Fight 11.



# **BLOOD BROTHERS**

Fabtek

THERE'S ONE THING YOU HAVE TO SAY about Fabrek: at least they are one up on the majority



of the coin-op industry. After the success of Cabal, most companies would probably have put their collective brain cell together and come up with the radical marketing ploy of Cabal II!

Not so here. What Fabtek have done is taken the initial concept of Cabal — with your sprite running along the bottom of the screen and shooting into the scene with a gunsight guided by a trakball — and thrown it back a century or so to the Wild, Wild West.

New sprites, new sound effects, same gameplay. Sounds like something of a recipe for boredom, but the fact that the playability of the original has been retained, maybe even enhanced, has ensured that this is going to be one of the favourite PCB games this summer.





# GOLFING GREATS

## Konami

KONAMI IS NOT, CURRENTLY, ON A ROLL, creatively speaking. Although it's been coining it in with their Ninja Turtles game, little else of much merit has come out of the factory, despite some neat hardware that can manipulate sprites fairly efficiently.

Unexpectedly, however, we have Golling Greats, the best PCB golf game to hit an already crowded market. For once, the on-board hardware is used well, unlike in Overdrive, to provide smooth zooms and sweeps, and the gameplay itself, although nothing radical, has that certain elusive something that makes you want to go back for more.

If you're into golf games, then Golfing Greats is well worth seeking out.

# Boreach

# Sega

IT'S ARCADE PUZZLE TIME AGAIN, in the great search for the follow-up to Tetris! Well, Boreach isn't it, but may well form a mild diversion in between the regular bouts of alien genocide.

An isometrically viewed screen of tiles scrolls at a constant diagonal down the screen at an equally constant speed (anyone remember Zaxxon?), with a little red ball rolling down the hill. You have to keep the ball on the playfield and guide it into the target tile (but away from the assorted mines, holes and nasty bits) using only a preset selection of deflectors that you place on the screen, using the joystick.

No adrenaline surges here, but it's worth a few goes if you fancy a change







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# CARRIER COMMAND

Mirror Image £9.99

VERY SO OFTEN a game comes along that's so technically accomplished that the world stops to look on in awe. The trouble is that all too frequently, this awe fades when the technology moves on and the once-acclaimed game is left looking a little sad and dated.

However, due to the depth of its gameplay (no pun intended) Carrier Command is one game which has avoided this fate.

Revolving around two 'super-carriers' (each containing a squadron of planes and amphibious tanks), this blend of strategy and action is a long-term battle for control of a string of resource-rich islands (see our 'classic game guide' later in this issue for more details).

If there is a problem with this program, it lies in the time it

takes for the carrier to sail from one island to another - the fact that a single journey can take anything up to half an hour to complete could be enough to deter the trigger-happy thrill seeker.

However, dedicated players will be rewarded with a long-term stretch of rivetting - and ultimately rewarding action. Definitely one for those with a long attention span.

क्षेत्रके



Paul Presley delves into the pile of recent budget releases and finds some classic shoot 'em up action and more.

# INTERNATIONAL

The Hit Squad £7.99

HAT COULD BE MORE FUN than watching two pyjama-clad men pound each others' bones to dust? Watching three pyjama-clad men beat each other up of course!

Archer Maclean's superlative martial arts game is still highly regarded as one of the best of the Karate/Kung Fu/Judo/Ninjitsu... erm, beat 'em ups - the main reason for this being its three-player option. Even though one of the participants is always computer-controlled, it's still great fun for the other two to gang up on him if they so choose.

Despite its advancing years, the graphics are still fresh and the music is excellent - especially during the

novel pause mode. The range of moves available is only surpassed by Budokan and the bonus levels are imaginative and great fun.

IK+ (as us trendies call it) is an excellent purchase, well worth getting to involve your mates in some seriously violent fun.

233333



### STAR QUALITY

かかかかか Excellent Deserves to be part of anyone's collection

at the state Good Probably worth buying if you don't already own it

titit Average Worth acquiring if it looks like your cup of tea

22 Poor Oh dear, this isn't really up to scratch

古 Dire Nobody's that desperate

### NORTH AND SOUTH

Action 16 £7.99

HERE AREN'T MANY computer games that are truly funny, but North And South is one - at least at first, that is. Being based on a series of French comic books, the game uses cartoon-style graphtics to good effect, combining them with wacky sound effects and music. The trouble is though, that when you've seen a joke once, the humour wears off and there's little incentive to go back.



Set during the US Civil War, this is a simple strategic challenge with arcade interludes thrown in for good measure. You either control the forces of the Yankees or the Confederates (respectively representing the North and South -

hence the name), with the simple aim of taking all of your opponent's land

Bullion trains, Red Indians, Mexicans and bad weather are random factors which affect your progress, while the arcade sequences come in to play when you attempt to rob a train, take over a fort or get involved in a battle.

It doesn't take much to figure out how to beat the computer in each fight and subsequently, to win the game. A greater challenge comes from a human opponent, but even this doesn't last too long. Even at this price, North And South will only appeal to the die-hard fan of French humour - does such a thing exist?

论公

### TIGER ROAD

Kirk £7.99

THERWISE KNOWN AS one man and his axe', Capcom's hack 'n' slash scroller first saw the light of day in 1987, to be greeted by a barrage of critical disinterest.

Sadly, things haven't improved with age. The 'man with weapon beating up wave after wave of bad guys' idea has been done to death by now - and Tiger Road wasn't a good example of the genre in the first place.

There are a couple of nice points though, notably in the audio department. The Oriental music is nicely rendered (although it's nothing special by today's standards) and the sound effects are rather



good, except that they don't quite fit the action.

Never a classic, Tiger Road now can't hold its own amongst the likes of Turrican and Gods, even at this price.

# 

Mirror Image £9,99

T'S HAD SEVERAL NAMES and has appeared on virtually every format under the sun, so it's about time 3D Pool made an appearance on the 'retrospective' scene.

Also known as Maltese Joe's 3D Pool and Sharkey's 3D Pool, this is probably the most involved simulation yet of the noble art of ball potting, with the title's '3D' referring to the player's view of the fully-rotatable

Four different types of pool are offered (including the one where you have to say 'four ball in the corner pocket' or the like, before each shot). The rules however tend to take the American format, so don't expect

an extra shot after a foul stroke and watch out for the weird 'behind the line' rule.

As it goes, everything works smoothly except for the disrupting fact that most of the time you can't see the whole table. Otherwise 3D Pool is excellent value if you fancy joining the cue.

33333

Action 16 £7.99

EIRD DOESN'T EVEN begin to describe this French adventurecum-puzzler. The plot is far too strange to even begin describing, but don't let it put you off because the game it hides is quite a pleasing little jaunt into the realms of fantasy.

You play the part of a psychic warrior, hell-bent on rescuing your beloved from the grip of a jumped-up alien invader, who claims that he has first rights to ruling the universe or some such nonsense,

Your quest comes in two parts, the first a series of puzzles, the second a more standard exploration/adventure. Both are icon driven, but with one of the strangest icon menus ever. A representation of your brain is called up with all your thoughts on how to deal with the current situation highlighted. Pick a thought and carry it out, how's that for weird?

really nice touches throughout, coupled with truly stylish graphics and sound effects. Mostly though, the whole thing generates more atmosphere than a Gazza romp at White Hart Lane. Dare to be

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different.



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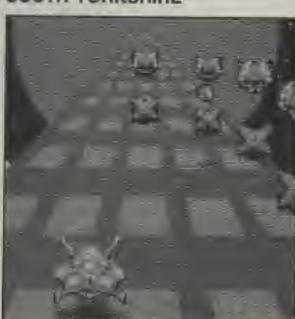
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STAR GOOSE

### -

All you have to do is press 'F1' on the title screen and you have infinite energy.

FROM: MICHAEL WILSON, SOUTH YORKSHIRE



### ELIMINATOR

Hold down 'HELP' and type MIKADO. You'll now start at Level

FROM: ANDREW SWINNERTON, WEST YORKSHIRE

### SDI

Type ALERIC on the high-score table then use the function keys to select a level.

FROM: SAYID HUSSAIN, BIRMINGHAM



### CHASE HQ

When Nancy at HQ appears hold down 'Fire' and keep pressing the space bar. This enables your car to reach speeds of 999mph. When the arrow appears on-screen, pull back on the joystick and press fire to cut the time between you and the criminal car.

FROM: ADAM SINGLETON, WEST SUSSEX

### GOLDRUNNER

While playing the game press 'I' for the bonus round, and 'O' to advance to the next level.

### SUPER GOLD RUNNER

Use 'Backspace' to pause, then type PINK-FLOYD-ARE-GODS (it may be nonsense, but don't forget to include the dashes while you're typing it).

### WEIRD DREAMS

This is totally weird... While in the hallway and halfway through the mirror, tap out S.O.S in Morse code.

FROM: SELWYN WILLIAMS, CARDIFF



### **ENDURO RACER**

Type CHEAT during the 3,2,1... and 'F' makes you go 210 mph, 'S' skips a level and 'T' gives you 10 more seconds.



### NINJA WARRIORS

While holding down 'ALT', type one of the following (including spaces): MONTY PYTHON, THE TERMINATOR, CASABLANCA, GENESIS OF THE DALEKS, EAT TO THE BEAT, SKIPPY and finally A SMALL STEP FOR A MAN to achieve different effects. 'Q' then toggles between the results.

FROM: GAZ SMITH, ESSEX

### **PUFFY'S SAGA**

When 'F5' and 'F6' are pressed at the same time during the game the result is a teleport to Level 7. UNDO will then put you onto Level 9.

### BRIAN NESBITT'S

# HELPING

Computer gaming's second most legendary hack opens the doors to a new era in tips, solutions and allround help for the stranded...

If I see one more list of Lemmings codes I will not be held responsible for my actions! With these arriving at a constant rate of more than five a day, the tips file now looks like a volume of the Encyclopedia Britannica, so stop sending them in — erm, please? Right, now that I've that off my chest...

Welcome to the new-look, easy-to-use, something-foreveryone Helping Hands section (cue applause). Over the coming months you'll find not only in-depth play guides to the latest games (often compiled by the authors themselves), but also a regular guide to a classic of yesteryear (or even yestermonth), two pages of cheats and tips provided by your fair selves and more of our ever-popular adventure solutions.

There's still a problem though, and we need your help to solve it. Each month we hope to print a selection of your queries, which I'll do my best to answer. Unfortunately I don't know everything, so, if you know the answer to a particular question, please send it in.

Also, the number of contact names and addresses is still fairly low, so if you've completed so many games that your computer is screaming 'no more', then let me know. You will be rewarded.

And now, without further ado, it's time to get this show on the road...

# CHEATS

### ARKANOID

On the title screen type DEATHSTAR and 'S' skips a screen.

### SPACE HARRIER

You must get the second from last position in the high-score table, then enter RAF.

### **FOOTBALL MANAGER**

After your first match, go to Sell/List players and attempt to sell them, but do not accept the price (they will then be injured). Do this to the rest and then continue the match; your players should not be injured, but will have gained 10 energy points. You can repeat this as much as you want.





Last Issue, we stopped with you dangling halfway through level four well, dangle no more, as it's time now to get back to where we left off...

40) Upper Kitchen. Drop the full oil flask on the flame. The resulting fireball destroys part of the shelf allowing the ball to drop and smash. Inside is a key, collect the key. Return to Wulf's View.

41) Wuff's View. Unlock the door to the South using the spell. Exit S.

42) Carver's Hall. Throw the slones through the bars so the ball pushes the potion through the bars. Collect the Giant Jump potion. Return to Wulf's View and use the potion to recover the key from the platform. Return to the Carver's Hall and use the key in the lock. Exit S.

43) Southwest Hall. Drop a candle in the small red circle and then kill the demon.

EXIT S.

44) Small Store. Place the copper bowl below the pump's spout, pump the handle until water appears in the bowl. Take the bowl and return to the Cistern Room.

38) Cistern Room. Unlock the door to the East. Drop the bowl of water onto the cistern, water should now flow along the pipe. Exit E.

39) Oil Store. Place the oil flask below the tap on the barrel, when the barrel is full, turn the tap and collect the oil flask when it is full. Return to the Upper Kitchen.

40) Upper Kitchen. Drop the full oil flask on the flame. The resulting fireball destroys part of the shelf allowing the ball to drop and smash. Inside is a key, collect the key. Return to Wulf's View.

41) Wulf's View. Unlock the door to the South using the spell. Exit S.

42) Carver's Hall. Throw the stones through bars so the ball pushes the potion through the bars. Collect the Giant Pump potion. Return to Wulf's View and use the potion to recover the key from the platform. Return to the Carver's Hall and use the key in the lock. Exit S.

43) Southwest Hall. Drop a candle in the small red circle and then kill the demon.

Exit S.

44) Small Store: Use a combination of Unlock Chest and Dispel Trap spells to open the nested chests, collect all the contents and Exit N and then E.

45) Little Passage. Unlock the South door using the grey key.

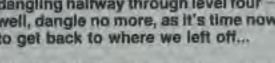
46) Box Room. Pull the lever and then return it to the up position. Exit E.

47) Halb's Delight. Slide around the large boxes until a gap is made in front of the door, one or two of the blocks cannot be moved and the one in front of the door has a life of its own. Exit N.

48) Inner Passage. Use the Giant Jump potion to reach the wooden shelf, collect the Immortal potion and casket, open the casket and collect the four tokens. Pull the lever and exit E.

49) South Passage. Drink your Immortal potion and jump over the spikes pull the lever to blow them up. Exit S.

50) South Chamber. Open the chest,



collect the gold key. Slide around the tiles that spell DIANOS so that they read the same along the other track. Exit N.

Warden's Room. Search the thief, he needs an Alkali potion to make him feel well enough to talk to you. Exit Sand E by casting the Unlock Door spell.

52) Helm's Doom. Collect the bottle that restores alkali balance and return to the Warden's Room, Give the bottle to the thief, he will eventually give you the combination to escape, 1432. He will then ask you to bring him a polson, Exit S, then E, then N.

53) Gambler's Den. Use the three tokens to gamble on the rotundas. The extreme right-hand one is a low risk, low return machine that provides extra tokens. The middle rotunda is higher risk higher return that also provides green tokens. The lefthand rotunda gambles tokens for potions, money, or an occasional key. Use the right and middle rotunda to generate as many tokens as possible then use them in the left-hand machines to get potions and a grey key. There is a Magic Missile spell hidden behind the stairs. When you are

satisfied (or broke) exit E. 54) Malladin's Pits. The four pits lead to four different challenges: W. The Resting Chamber - use the fertiliser to grow a shoot so that you can reach the lever, pull it and collect the chest key. Open the chest and collect all items except the books. Drink the Sweat potion (for strength) and push the metal bars aside. Wait until the clock has gone around four times and then unlock the door. Exit N and collect the Fizzy potion (poison). Follow the Exit sequence. Give the poison to the thief. Return to Malladin's Pits. N. Great Pit - collect the gold and follow the Exit sequence. S. Outer Pit - keep collecting the money sacks, if the roots start to grow in front of the door, leave (the door only unlocks after a certain amount of time). The roots will eventually block off your exit so be careful. Collect the Dispel Trap spell. Exit S. and then S. then follow the Exit sequence. The door only unlocks after a certain amount of time. E. Fire Pit withstand the fire balls until part of the metal flooring disappears, drop through and exit S. Collect the three spells and follow the Exit sequence. Exit sequence from the Great Pit go E-S-S-S you will

now be in the Inner Passage, retrace your steps back to Malladin's Pits. From Malladin's Pits exit E, then E.

 Southeast Hall. Cast Dispel Evil and kill the two demons. Use the Unlock Door spell to exit N.

56) Learned Hall. Pull lever and exit W. 57) Symbolists Hall. Remember the order of the shaped blocks on the posts. Exit E, then E.

58) Symbolists' Half. Pull the levers in this order Left, Right, Right, Left. A button should now have appeared on the wall. Press it (the aim of the puzzle is to arrange the shaped blocks in the same order as those in the other room. Exit E.

59) Book Store. Read the books and note their contents for clues. Read books several times to see if there is more than one message. Exit W, then W.

60) Symbolists' Hall. Press the button then exit W.

61) Sealed Chamber. Open the chest and collect the planet (Earth) without pressing any of the buttons, then exit E, then E.

60) Learned Hall. Exit N. 61) Learned Hall. Exit E.

62) Quadratica (this is later referred to as the room with square walls). Do not bother opening the chest. Read all the books, and collect the Dry Sandy Planet (Chaos). Exit W, then N.

62) Learned Half. Exit E.

63) Dlanos' Library. Read all books, keep reading the book on marriage and funeral customs of the Southlands until a spell appears. Collect the spell. Search the tapestry and collect the small key that emerges. Exit W, then W.

64) Side Chamber. Do not bother with the puzzle in this room unless you feel like it. It is not essential to completing the game.

Exit W.

65) Nameless Room. Open the chest and collect all the contents. Cast the Read Magic spell on the unknown spell. Return to the Quadratica.

66) Quadratica, Position the chest along the north wall, fifth tile from the left, jump onto it and then jump up, your head should hit a secret panel and a small white planet should fall out. Collect the planet (the Moon). Return to the Learned Hall. 67) Learned Hall. You have to set the four levers to four numbers in any order. You do this by setting a level to either +, - or neutral. For example the number 29 is made by adding 27, subtracting 3 and adding 1. Thus the levers will be in the following positions 27 - up, 9 - mid, 3 down and 1 - up. Use this principal to create the numbers 29, 32, 16 and 7. Once you have done this the door to the West will unlock. Exit W.

68) Queen's Library, Cast Unlock Chest, collect the planet (Sun). Exit W.

69) Wisdom's Hall. Collect the planet (Red) and return to the nameless room (65) and exit S. to the Upper Room.

70) Upper Room. You should now have five planets in your rucksack (Earth, Sun, Moon, Red and Chaos), these will be dropped through the holes in the floor to land on spikes in the Planetarium (North of the Queen's Library). They should be dropped through the following holes: Top - Sun, Left - Red, Right - Moon and Bottom - Earth. Now return to the Queen's Library and exit N.

71) Planetarium. Because you got the planets in the correct positions, the globe in the centre has stopped spinning. Search the globe, press the hidden switch, collect the two keys and return to

the upper room.

72) Upper Room. Drop the Chaos planet through any of the holes and return to the

73) Planetarium. Press the button on the black globe and collect the grey keys. Return to Wisdom's Hall.

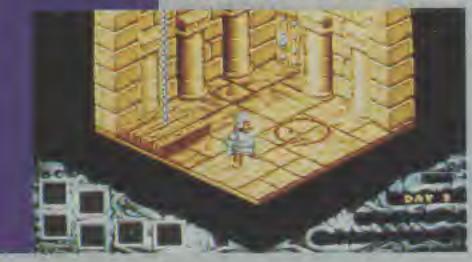
74) Wisdom's Hall. Collect all the wooden planks and Exit W.

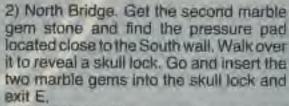
75) East Passage. This is the final approach to the last room. Use the grey key you collected from the Planetarium in the keyhole then use the planks to cross the floor without touching it (it is electrocuted). Exit W.

76) Central Hall. In here are three demons. First cast a Dispel Evil spell, then give them everything you've got. Once they are dead, insert the four gold keys into the four keyholes in the order given to you by the thief: 1 is the extreme left-hand keyhole and 4 is the right-hand one. Once this is done, walk to the centre of the room and go to level 5.

At last you have reached the final level of Castle Wulf. Dianos is waiting for you in the final room. The alm here is to collect the necessary Items for his destruction and to reach that final room. Dianos has left a profusion of traps and puzzles to stop you. You will need all the skills that you have gained in the previous levels to succeed best of luck.

1) Great Tower. Quickly get the marble gem stone and exit E.





 Ward Room. Hump up on the posts and get the potion bottles (do this quickly as the gems are damaging your health). Exit E.

4) Helm's Bridge. Pull the first lever and go under the wooden block when it raises. Pull the second lever and run to the East door. Stand as close as you can get to it and wait, the two fiails that appeared will not harm you. Run back, press the hole and get the flask that appears. Finally, pull the third lever, wait for a few seconds until the door unlocks, then exit E.

Helm's View. Get the Emerald gemand exit E.

6) Great Chamber. Open the chest (Reading the book for clues) and get the Dispel Trap scroll and cure the poison flask. Go down the stairs.

7a) Cellar Stair. Open the chest and collect the mind blast orb and green gems (the gems you collect are powering up your mind blast spell in readiness for the final conflict). Exit E then S.

7b) Main Cellar, Open chest, collect Bless Potion spell and urn, return to Cellar Stair. Place the urn under the steam hammer and pull the lever. The urn will smash and you should collect an emerald.

7c) Great Cellar. Open the chest and collect the Magic Missile spells (however, these are a bit of a red herring and almost useless). Exit S.

8) East Cellar. Open the chest and pick up the two Red potions. As the note says, you can only pick up one of the Black potions. They are both Stamina, one has a single dose of 200 and the other 10 doses of 20. Get the 10 of 20 stamina potion and cast the Bless Potion spell on it—this provides you with more stamina.

than casting it on the other potion.

9) Great Chamber. You have now been teleported back to the Great chamber. You must quickly jump for the posts that have the caskets resting on them, getting the caskets as you go. Open the green casket and get all the gems. Open the red casket and get the Dispel Trap spell the evit S.

10) East Passage. STOP! You must now get all the gems, but beware of the floor, there are four pressure pads that transport you to one of the confrontations with Dianos... We'll leave you to discover which tiles are the bad ones! Exit S.

11) The Separator. Avoid touching the black spheres, as these will explode and harm you. Collect the key, pull the lever and use the key in the keyhole. Return to the Great Chamber. Use strength to pull back the wooden block from the door. Exit

12) Outliette. Search the skull, collect the token and tiger's eye gem, read the book. Return to The Separator, Exit S.

13) High Passage, Pull the middle lever. Climb the wooden ladder, trigger the wooden block by standing in the corner. You must avoid the flail, collect all the green gems and finally the key. Exit S. 14) Axel's Leap. Collect the money bag and the red orb. As soon as you go round the far side of the pit you'll trigger the flails. Jump to avoid them. Exit S.

15) Sea Watch. Dispel the trap on the wooden chest, open it and collect the extra-strong spider poison and money sack. Insert the key in the keyhole and exit w

16) Axel's Fall. Time the moving of the wooden block, and insert the two

ameralds onto the eyes of the skull lock. Jump across the central block of the wooden floor and exit W.

17) Brokson's Hall. Open the wooden chest and collect the piece of lead and all the coins. Pull the upper lever and get onto the elevator. Drop the poison on the floor and the spider should drink it, after a few seconds the spider should die leaving behind a key. Pull the upper lever and go down to collect the key. Pull the lower lever to make the bars disappear. Pull the lower lever on the west wall and climb onto the elevator and go to the upper level. Use the key in the keyhole and return to the lower floor. Exit W.

18) The Void. You cannot collect the flask or money sacks — just the jet. The exits to this room are located about halfway along the North wall and at either end of the West wall. Exit N.

19) Dispel trap on the strong box and open it to collect the coins. Collect the Magic Shield polion, stand on the strongbox to press the secret panel, collect the ruby that falls from it. Return to the void and then exit using the lower of the west wall doors.

20) The Lord's View. Touch the numbered panels until they are set 7.4.1, this should unlock the door to the south. Exit S then S again.

21) Lord's Watch. Press the two secret panels to collect a red casket (be sure to read the note) and the two keys. Exit N. 22) Side Room. Open the chest and collect what money you can. Return to the vold and Exit through the upper of the West doors.

23) Great Bridge. Insert the two rubies into the first skull lock, then insert the key into the lock and insert the token into the slot. Exit W.

24) West Ward, Collect the amethyst and the green casket. Open the green casket and collect all the gems. Now drink your strength polion and slide the wooden block so that you can reach the door and the lever. Pull the lever and exit W.

25) Magnus Watch. Avoid the steel shots and insert the amethyst into the appropriate skull lock. You can now open the red casket and collect the lead. Exit North.

26) High Parapet, Pull the lever and climb onto the elevator, jump over the wooden platform with the book on it. Open the chest and collect the Stamina potion. Return to Lord's Watch via the void.

27) The Void. Collect the two money sacks and the Turquoise Water polion.
28) Lord's Watch. Drop the two lead pieces and Ragnar's bottle into the bowl. The bowl should bubble for a while and reveal two pieces of gold. Return to Magnus' Watch.

29) Magnus' Watch. Insert the two pieces of gold into the skull lock. Exit N and then N again.

30) Inner Watch. Collect the key and open the chest. Collect all the green gems, the two jades, the red casket and the flask of blood. Exit E.

31) Caliban's View. Drop the red casket and return to the Inner Watch.

32) Inner Watch. Open the green casket and insert one of the jades, return to Caliban's View and open the red casket – but do not collect the Bloodstone. Return to the inner Watch and repeat the process with the second jade.

33) Caliban's View. There should now be two bloodstones on the floor. Collect the blood key and return to the Inner Watch, pull the lever and exit S to the High Parapet, throw yourself down the pit.

34) South Cellar. Pull the lever and face the consequences. Exit N to the main



Cellar, unlock the door using the blood and exit W.

35) Caliban's Cellar. Collect the piece of jet, open the secret panel and collect the banish scroll (this is to defeat Dianos). Stand on the carved skull and throw the flask of blood at the pentangle. You will be transported to Caliban's View. Collect the two bloodstones and exit E.

36) Inner Ward. Collect the Petrify spell, cast this on the turquoise gem that results. Exit N onto the Open Bridge.
37) Open Bridge. Pull lever and exit N, then W, then descend the revealed stairs.
38) You should now be down stairs. Collect the Dispel Magic spell. Open the red casket and collect the second piece of jel. Open the strong box and collect all the green gems. Return to the Ward Room.
39) Ward Room. Cast the Dispel Magic on either of the power gems. This should provide you with the final piece of turquoise. Return to the Inner Ward and exit E.

40) Axel's Stand. Collect the Orb, open the secret panel and collect all the green gems. Return to the Inner Ward and descend the stairs.

41) Cellar Stair. Place the two red orbs under the hammer (one at a time) and pull the lever. You should now be able to collect two opals and return to Axel's Stand.

42) Axel's Stand. Insert the two opals into the skull lock. Exit E.

43) Last Watch. Drop the immortal potion, drink it while it is on the floor and run across the wooden spikes to the South door. Exit S.

44) Last Bridge. The three skull locks accept the following gems: from left to right, lurquoise, tiger's eye, jet. Insert all six of these gems and exit S.

45) Guard Post. Touch the skull lock and let your energy drain until it stops, you may then insert the two blood stones. Exit W.

46) Inner Chamber. Open the strong box and insert the Banish spell and the orb of Kamul. Drink the Stamina potion to return all your lost energy from the previous room. Exit N and then W.

47) Dianos' Lair. This is the main chamber where you will confront Dianos, remember it well. Exit through the middle of the West doors.

48) Great Cellar, Collect all the green gems and return via the cellar stairs to the Last Watch.

49) Last Watch. Collect the Immortal potion, drink one dose and run across the spikes to return to the inner chamber.
50) Inner Watch. Insert the immortal

potion into the grey strong box and return to Dianos' Lair.

51) Dianos' Lair. Open the grey chest and collect all its contents (Banish spell, Immortal potion and Mind Blast orb). Wait till Dianos appears, cast the Mind Blast spell. Drink the Immortal potion, approach Dianos and cast the Banish spell on him repeatedly until he blows up. Collect his head and exit through the middle door.

You have now finished Cadaver in the last room your status will displayed. This whole series of solutions has outlined the simple way through the game. However, there are several hidden bonuses that can be achieved in each level happy hunting.

Part the fourth (and final). In which Bobbin Threadbare loses his distaff, discovers the cause of the chaos in the Loom and finds out what happened to his missing people.

BOBBIN THREADBARE, LAST OF THE GUILD OF WEAVERS, was searching for the rest of his villagers after they had been transformed into swans and kidnapped. His journey had taken him away from his childhood home of Loom Island and onto the mainland where he had encountered many weint and wonderful sights.

Along his travels Bobbin had learned of an evil plot, somehow linked to the other Guilds of the land, by a smister figure known as Bishop Mandible Bobbins search led to the Guild of Blacksmiths. Now read on

Woe! Bobbin Threadbare had entered the city of Forge in the hope of finding a clue as to the location of the rest of his Guild. Instead he wandered around aimlessly until a large worker called Stoke took his distaff from him to use as firewood!

And worse still, because he was disguised as Rusty, he had been locked up in a small cell for a punishment for laziness. As the magical staff blazed away on the furnace, Bobbin could do no more than sit back and wait.

Outside the city, Dame Hetchel sat, ruffling her feathers and sharpening her beak. Ever since the village elders had turned hor into a cygnet, she had watched over Bobbin wherever possible, but since he had entered the Forge she hadn't been able to follow.

As she plumed herself, the smake emerging from the chimneys of the city formed themselves into a strange sign. Herchel recognised its meaning instantly - the distaff was in danger. Ignoring any danger, she took to the skies then darted down one of the many ventilation shafts into the city.

ventilation shafts into the city.

The sound of something being pushed into his cell was enough to bring Bobbin out of his light slumber but when he saw what caused the noise he figured he was

still dreaming.
Picking up the distaff, he span the
Draft of Opening on the door and
ran outside. Avoiding the main
entrance (Bobbin had resumed his
own identity after losing the distaff
and he didn't want to answer any
questions) he ran down the first set

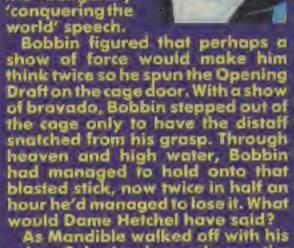
The stairs led into a large chamber where a solitary black-smith sharpened a sword. Bishop Mandible was standing on the for side of the room, talking to another of the workers. Listening to his conversation Bobbin realised that the Bishop's plans were obviously more sinister than he had first suspected. Bobbin had to find a way to buy himself more time, so, raising the distaff, he reversed the Droft of Sharpening on the blade.

Draft of Sharpening on the blade.
Thinking he'd got away with it Bobbin turned to leave only to walk straight into a couple of guards. "Take him to my transport," commanded the Bishop without even looking up. The only other time Bobbin had flown was when the dragon had mistaken him for a sheep, so he wasn't looking forward much to this particular journey, especially considering the destination.

The flight was surprisingly smooth, but what really took Bobbin's breath away was the view of the tower. Only one word could adequately describe it ... evil. Gravestones littered the front lawn and an eerie green light shone from behind - whoever designed this place certainly had a taste for

# Loom

Bobbin was imprisoned in what looked like the Bishop's private zoo. A jailer by the name of Cobstood loyally by Mandible's side, grinning evilly as his master gave the obligatory 'conquering the world' speech.



As Mandible walked off with his prize, Cob stood guard over the door preventing Bobbin from stopping his evil plans. With a sigh, he settled for examining the rest of the room. Another of the spheres stood atop a pedestal, but as he moved to study it, Cob interfered ...

There is an old legend about the Weavers concerning their hoods and what lies beneath. Some say you see overything in the universe compressed into one space, the result of which leaves you stark raving mad. Nobody has ever really known the truth - nobody except Cob that is. Despite Bobbin's warnings, the jailer litted his hood and died a horrible death. Bobbin could feel no pity for him as he headed off to find Mandible.

The Bishop stood on the edge of the parapet, ready to weave the Draftof Opening on the graveyard. Thanks to the Bishop's own magical power the result was pretty devastating, despite all of Bobbin's efforts to stop him. What emerged from the hole filled Bobbin with sheer terror. Although he'd never seen it before, he knew that this was the Chaos in the Great Loom, evil in a solid form. In a flash it disposed (horribly) of Bishop Mandible before wandering off to see what other may hem it could get up to. Bobbin quickly headed back inside.

Consulting the third sphere revealed what looked like a tragedy for Dame Hetchel. Bobbin was filled with rage: future or no luture, he couldn't let this happen to Hetchel. Bobbin raced back out to the parapet. In his haste he had failed to notice that the caged beast had gotten free (probably due to the force of Mandible's Opening Draft) and was sneaking up behind him. At the last moment Bobbin heard the creature's footsteps and spun around to confront it. Unfortunately he lost his balance and fell headlong over the edge, into the mysterious void.

headlong over the edge, into the mysterious void.

Although he'd prepared himself for a sudden impact with the ground, Bobbin surprisingly found himself floating in mid-air/void.

Looking up, he quickly reversed the Opening Draft on the hole to stop the creature from following him. Nearby, he could see another hole and through it he could just about make out the huddled form of Rusty.

of Rusty.

Floating through the hole, Bobbin was harrified to see that his newly-found friend had been reduced to a pile of ashes. As his mind searched for an explanation, his hands wove the Healing Draft. Rusty's spirit started to rise from the burnt body and instantly laid into Bobbin with a torrent of verbal abuse.

In an attempt to calm down his irate buddy, Bobbin finished the Healing Draft, restoring the lad to his former self. Rusty apologised for his autburst, thanked him for his new life and headed off to search for his Guild. Bobbin returned to the void and closed the hole.

The next hole led to another scene of detestation. The Guild of Shopherds lay scattered all over their village, another testimony to the evil of chaos. Bobbin wasted no time in spinning the Healing Draft before heading back into the void. Again he closed the hole behind him. Bobbin decided not to waste any more time, he had to save Dame Hetchel, so the next hole he came to was closed instantly.

Onwards he travelled until he came across a magical lake, with what appeared to be swans swimming in it. Could it be? Was this what had happened to his village? Bobbin headed towards it as a very familiar looking swan swam up to meet him. The swan introduced herself, causing a look of disbelief to spread across Babbin's lace, His

MOTHER??

Bobbin looked closer and, to his astonishment, saw that it was true. Bobbin's mother explained the danger that faced Dame Hetchel and urged him to hurry. He quickly floated past the lake and through the final hole, back onto Loom Island. Hurrying towards the Great Loom, Bobbin imagined what sort of danger he would face. The test of his life. One wrong move and he would die. He tried to stop thinking about it and hurried into the Sanctuary.

Thankfully, the Great Loom was still intact, which was more than could be said for Hetchel. Pitched in a battle with Chaos did not suit her in her present form, but Bobbin tried his best to help her out. Every time Chaos spun a draft on Hetchel, Bobbin would reverse it.

This battle of Drafts went on until, in a final stroke, Chaos spun the draft of Unmaking on the helpless cygnet. Bobbin couldn't reverse it and was left holding nothing but a feather. He tried Healing it, Shaping it, even Opening it. Nothing worked. Hetchel was gone and Chaos stood there laughing in withers.

Her death won't be in vain though! As a final act, Bobbin stepped up to the Great Loom and spun the Draft of Unmaking onto the very device that he had been brought up to respect...







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After a long enforced absence, Ciarán Brennan once again straps on his sea legs to bring you the benefit of an extensive knowledge of Rainbird's Carrier Command, recently re-released on the Mirror **Image** label.

bove all, Carrier Command is a strategy game – and as with most strategy games a good solid foundation is necessary if you're going to emerge victorious.

A quick glance at the map reveals three distinct types of island: Red, Blue and Green. Blue islands are those that are initially under your control, while Red are hostile and Green are neutral. Your job is to hop from island to island building a supply network and ultimately wiping the opposition off the map.

The first steps to building up a network are simple. Set your course for a nearby island (such as Byrne) and sail there. When you arrive, stop and go to Walrus control. Here load a Walrus with full fuel and a Factory Automatic Command Centre Builder (ACCB).

Set the Walrus on a course for the island, remembering to drop the ACCB as close to the centre as you can. Once this is done, retrieve the Walrus and set your Carrier's course for another nearby island and carry out the same procedure, again making a factory island.

When this is done, set about making the next five islands you capture defence islands. This is very important, although you won't realise it until much later on in the game – the defence islands are situated here as your home island must be protected at all costs.

One of the keys to winning the game is to capture the island of Fulcrum. Take a look at the radar map and home in on the island in the very centre where two grid lines cross. There you'll find both Fulcrum and a group of islands that form a ring around it.

Although it doesn't become apparent until all of the supply lines appear on the map (an island's supply lines don't appear until either you or the enemy has taken it), the islands in that ring interconnect and feed Fulcrum directly like the spokes of a wheel, making it one of the best defended and best supplied islands in the game: capture it and you're a big step closer to victory.

Carry on capturing enemy islands in this fashion, whittling away at the network piece by piece. Don't worry if the enemy is beginning to get close to your home island, as your defence islands should hold him long enough for you to win the game.

When you finally reach the enemy base, don't try to attack Omega as it's far too powerful. Go instead for the home island, using the same technique, but using your surface to surface missiles and Carrier laser to damage the island as much as you

THE MANTA
SHOWN (left) is
equipped with
laser, which
lasts longer
than the
Assassin
missiles, but is
far harder to
use.



possibly can before launching the fateful Mantas.

### DIVIDE AND CONQUER

One skill that's vital for successful completion of the game is the ability to capture the enemy's Defence islands. These islands are instantly recognisable as they're equipped with a volcano-like structure, which is actually a massive hangar housing numerous enemy fighters. Their presence, and the fact that the island is bristling with ground-based defences, make these islands difficult nuts to crack.

There are many ways to attack these strongholds, with trial and error in the optional 'action game' the best way of finding your favorite. Here are a couple of ways to get you started...

Sail the Carrier towards the island until its boundaries appear in your radar. Then, turn the Carrier until it's facing away from the island and reverse slowly, keeping an eye on the depth indicator so that you don't 'ground' the ship.

Before you get too close, go to 'drone control' and deploy a complete set with drones at each corner. This may slow your progress down, but it also provides insurance against any early attack.

When you're as close to the island as possible, go to Carrier Defence and launch a viewing drone. As soon as the 'Batcave' command centre comes into view, let it have it with a couple of missiles (you must be facing away from the island for a drone to be effective, as both it and the missiles are launched from the rear of the Carrier).





Once the Batcave is destroyed, the island is knocked out and it's a simple matter to send a Walrus across to plant an ACCB. By the way, this is far easier said than done, but mastering the process is a good idea as it can come in handy later in the game proper.

The second method of destroying the island once again involves knocking out the Batcave, but this time in a much more direct (and consequently more hazardous) fashion – the Kamikaze attack...

Before reaching the island in question, load all of your Mantas with a full complement of missiles (each Manta can hold seven: three in the nose and two on each wing).

Then, when within range, stop the Carrier and launch the maximum of three Mantas, setting them all for a course to points just outside the island's defence range.

When all three have reached their destination, take manual control of the first and begin to circle the island, looking for the Balcave. When you've found it, fly around to the side of the island that it's closest to — this way, when you attack you cut the amount of time that you're actually over the island to a minimum.

Now, fly towards the Batcave at maximum speed (ignoring the attentions of the enemy which will undoubtedly come at you in force) and target the missile cursor on it. As soon as the cursor flashes let loose with a missile and continue to do this until you're either out of missiles, the Batcave is destroyed or you've been shot down.

If the latter occurs, simply take control of the next aircraft and repeat the process until either the job is done or you're out of equipment. Remember that Mantas are remote-controlled and relatively easy to replace, so don't worry too much about losing a couple of them.

### THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW

ne tactic which takes a lot of mastering, but is very effective if you're willing to put the time in is the long-range attack, using either a group of Mantas or a combination of Mantas and Walruses.

The idea here is simple. Load two Mantas with the full complement of missiles and another with a Long Range Communications Pod and two missiles (the LRCP in the nose and a missile on each wing).

The LRCP allows the Mantas to fly far beyond the scope of the Carrier, so choose your target carefully (an island about halfway along the enemy's red supply line is a good bet, as taking this out can slow his progress considerably) and set your Mantas for a point just off its coast. Remember to adjust the speed to medium and the altitude to low when setting the automatic pilot as this increases the Mantas' range considerably.

Now launch all three Mantas in quick succession and carry on with the rest of your game - you'll be informed by a text message when the squadron reaches its destination. At this point stop whatever you're doing (if convenient) and switch to manual control of one of the two heavily-armoured Mantas and carry out a Kamikaze attack as normal.

When the Batcave has been destroyed, ditch the remaining Mantas (as they'll usually have too little fuel to get back to the Carrier) and get back to what you were doing.

A similar tactic can be used to take command of Neutral islands by sending a combination of Mantas and Walruses, but this needs more attention as the aircraft move much faster than their water-based counterparts.

These manoeuvres are well worth getting the hang of, as they allow your resource network to expand far more rapidly than if you only used the Carrier. They also allow you to work out variations of your own (such as sending a squadron of Mantas to land on and protect a vulnerable island such as Fulcrum). Another advantage of using these methods is that they give the player something to concentrate on during those long trips between islands.

### IN GENERAL

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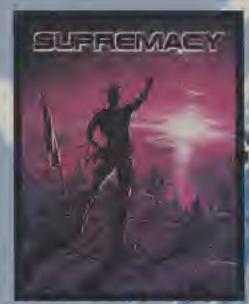


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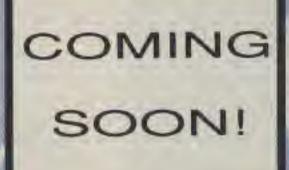
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# SIZO

month's plea for help has been pretty fair, but we still need more people willing to do their country a service. The following contacts have bravely put their lives on the line and are willing to help you out with all sorts of problems...

Name: PHILIP M.C. SMITH Address: 8 PARKFIELD MENSTON ILKLEY WEST YORKSHIRE LS29 6LP Telephone: (0943) 871010 Times: Sensible hours only.

Games: Badlands; Cadaver; Captive; Continental Circus; Corporation; Damocles; Debut; Dragon's Lair 2: Time Warp; F-19 Stealth Fighter; Flood; Golden Axe; Hard Drivin'; Hard Drivin' 2; Italy 1990; Karateka; Kick Off 2; King's Quests 1, 2, 3 & 4; Leisure Suit Larry 1, 2 & 3; Life and Death; Lotus Esprit Turbo Challenge; MiG-29 Fulcrum; Monty Python's Flying Circus; Operation Harrier; Pang; Police Quests 1 & 3; Populous; Powermonger; Quest For Glory (formerly Hero's Quest); Rick Dangerous 1 & 2; RoboCop 2; Rotox; Saint Dragon; Sim City; Space Quests 1, 2 & 3; Speedball 2; Spindizzy Worlds 2; The Spy Who Loved Me; Strider 2; Stunt Car Racer; Super Cars; Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles; Terramex; The Immortal; Torvak The Warrior; Turrican; Venus The Flytrap; Xenon; Xenon 2; X-Out; Zany Golf. Notes: Would like help on B.A.T.

Name: ZANY BEN Address: 112 CONNINGTON CRESCENT CHINGFORD E4 6LA Telephone: (081) 529 1786 Times: Until 7.00pm only.

Games: Altered Beast; Barbarian; Batman The Caped Crusader; Black Tiger; Captain Blood; Chaos Strikes Back: Colorado: Double Dragon 1 & 2: Dragon's Breath, Dragon's Lair 2: Time Warp; Dungeon Master; Exolon; Ghosts 'n' Goblins; Ghouls 'n' Ghosts; Golden Axe; Gold Of The Aztecs; Guardian Angel; Ivanhoe; Last Ninja II; Menace; Midnight Resistance; Nebulus; Night Hunter; Ninja Spirit; Obliterator; Operation Thunderbolt; RoboCop; RoboCop 2; Shadow Warriors; Sly Spy Secret Agent; Soldier Of Light; Speedball 2; Starblade; The Sword And The Rose; Xenon 2. Notes: Needs help with the crocodile on Level 3 of The Last Ninja II.

Name: ADIL CHAUDRY Address: 296 GREEN STREET UPTON PARK LONDON E7 8LF Telephone: (081) 470 8580

Times: 5.00pm - 10.00pm weekdays, all day weekends.

Games: Batman The Caped Crusader; Batman The Movie;
Beach Volley; Bermuda Project; Chase HQ;
Chase HQ 2; Continental Circus; Daley
Thompson's Olympic Challenge; Double Dragon;
Double Dragon II; Escape From Colditz;
Future Wars; Golden Axe; Indiana Jones The
Graphic Adventure; It Came From The Desert;
Leisure Suit Larry; Lemmings; Lotus Esprit
Turbo Challenge; Maniac Mansion; Midnight
Resistance; Midwinter; Monty Python's Flying
Circus; Murder; New Zealand Story; Ninja
Warriors; Operation Stealth; Police Quest;
Rainbow Islands; RoboCop; Shadow Warriors;
Supercars; Xenon 2; Zak McKracken.

Name: SEAMUS SLATER
Address: 'CAPRI'
GEORGE STREET
SHOEBURYNESS
ESSEX
SS3 9AB
Telephone: (0702) 294383
Times: 6.00pm - 9.00pm weekdays

Games: Corporation; Killing Game Show;
Operation
Stealth; Shadow Of The Beast 1 & 2; plus
loads of cheats for loads of games and any
technical problems with the Amiga.
Notes: Ask for SHAY-MUS not SEE-MUS.
Enclose SAE for written hints. When Seamus
completed The
Killing Game Show he telephoned Martyn
Chudley (the programmer) and discovered that
his score was higher than any of the
Psygnosis' team.

Name: STUART GIBLIN Address: 3 HARRISON WALK CHESHUNT HERTS. EN8 8PT

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